LIFESTYLE / D1
Vindication, validation for DLSU Archers

BUSINESS / B1
Consortium led by French firm wins Calaca bid

WORLD / A23
Oil prices hit new record, nears $88 per barrel

METRO / A21
Crispin Beltran still under observation at PGH after vehicular accident

Gossip more potent than truth, says study

LONDON—GOSSIP is more powerful than truth, a study showed on Monday, suggesting people believe what they hear through the grapevine even if they have evi-

LOCAL D1

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, October 17, 2007 444 Pasciona / Vol. 22 / No. 311 P18 www.inquirer.net

Atienza: Malacañang gifts a normal thing

By TJ Burgonio

BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, ENVIRONMENT Secretary Lito Atienza received cash gifts from Malacañang ranging from P100,000 to P200,000 throughout his nine years as mayor of Manila.

Atienza, a staunch supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the Palace's

FULL STORY A4

CBCP tells execs: Admit Palace gift

'Our leaders are showing moral bankruptcy'

OLD IS NEW AGAIN
House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. (second from right) and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim (right) lead the unveiling of the scale model of the proposed reconstruction of the old Quezonian building. Yesterday was the centennial anniversary of the First Philippine Assembly, convened at the old Manila Grand Opera House on Oct. 16, 1907.

ASSAILING THE "MORal bankruptcy" of national leaders, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday rallied on other public officials to follow the lead of Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio.

The CBCP through its spokesperson Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, also expressed support for the Senate's plan to formally investigate the purported distribution of money to lawmakers and local government officials during or after separate meetings with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Oct. 11 in Malacañang.

It said the first step to address the issue was for other public officials to admit that they had received money from Mala-cañang, as Panlilio, a Catholic priest, had done.

"What [governor Panlilio did] was part of being transparent about the issue. His transparency is laudable," Quitorio said at a briefing.

"The other public officials should emulate what he did. Transparency is the first step in removing the moral bankruptcy in government," Quitorio said.

He added that the next step was for these public officials to return the money.

According to the CBCP president, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo, the fact that the money came from an unknown source and had a vague purpose made it questionable.

Ultimately, he said, one would have to ask whether it

CBCP, A4 ▸

NEW URBAN HUB
President Macapagal-Arroyo, flanked by Vice President Noli de Castro and Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, formally opens the Trillium (Triangle North of Manila) mall in Quezon City on Tuesday. The newest premium shopping destination of Ayala Malls is linked directly to the North Avenue Station of the MRT.

Still no statement from GMA herself

By Michael Lim Ubac, Christian V. Esguerra and Yolanda Batallo-Fuentes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

IT WAS A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVing hard to resist, yet five days after it was enjoyed, nobody seems to want to be associated with it.

Nobody, that is, except Buenaventura Bonaldo Pineda in the group that might know who masterminded the distribution of bags filled with money to congressmen and governors at Malacañang last week, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) yesterday flatly denied any hand in the operation.

In the face of the seemingly burgeoning scandal, not one word has been heard from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Asked for Mr. Arroyo's comment on the issue, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said a statement very soon.

Augustinian Gelli na gala Ofilo is asking, like a very angry.

In the hand of the League of Governors of the Philippines (LLP), Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Ocampos, the locals and their sources have become a "mystery."

"Because of this mystery left and right, this has become an issue ... the more mysterious the whole thing has become," Ocampos said.

The controversy centers on disclosures by Pampanga Gov

FULL A4 ▸

Opposition hopes pro-GMA solons will agree to investigate payoffs

By Cliff C. Calasungan Jr., Dona Z. Pazolagan and Norman Bordadora

OPPOSITION LAWMAKERS OF THE Senate and the House of Representatives moved yesterday to investigate allegations of payoffs by Malacañang in the midst of a fresh attempt to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In the House, leftist party-list groups yesterday filed a resolution asking the chamber to have the committees on ethics and on good government to look into the distribution of P200,000 to P500,000 to lawmakers during last week's meeting in Malacañang.

In filing House Resolution No. 289, the congressmen said the alleged payoffs told to committees members that Malacañang wanted a weak impeachment rebuttal in the committee on justice to intimidate Ms Arroyo from a stronger suit.

The resolution calls on the two committees to look into the alleged bribery in Malacañang supposedly meant "to influence

OPPOSITION, A10

Marines affected by latest political row

By Nikko Dizon

THE COMMANDANT OF THE PHILIPpine Marines yesterday said allegations that Malacañang had attempted to bribe congressmen and local officials had affected soldiers but that he had not yet heard grumbling so far.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino wanted that any attempt by rogue elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to overthrow the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo could lead to a civil war.

"In one way or another, we are affected but our professionalism should reign over our respective personal and political interests," Dolorfino told reporters in an interview at the Philippine Marines Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

He said he did not think there were indications of "grumbling" in the ranks and file. He said the military leadership had been reminding officers and their men to distance themselves from

MARINES A4

SPECIAL REPORT

RP once again part of US global posture

By Herbert Docena
Contributor

[Conclusion]

REFERRING TO THEIR BASES IN MINdanao as "forward operating base-115" and "advanced operating base-911," the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) corresponds to what a US Air Force operational study described as the ongoing "redefinition of what forward presence means."

In terms of profile and mission, the JSOTF-P is similar to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-Horn of Africa), which was established in Djibouti in eastern Africa in 2003, also composed mostly of Special Forces, and which has been described as a sample of the US marines basing template and the "model for future GI infantry operations."

Indeed, more deployments similar to that of the JSOTF-P and CJTF-Horn of Africa are planned in other locations around the world in the future. In 2004, former Pacific Command (Pacom) head Thomas Fargo talked about expanding Special Operations forces in the Pacific.

Apparently referring to the JSOTF-P, then Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld also announced that the Pentagon would establish more "nodes for special operations forces."

SPECIAL, A4

POP and rock-and-roll singer Josh Groban arrives at the MTV Philippines office during its inauguration on Tuesday.

Josh Groban promises high energy

By Pichelo Concepcion
Entertainment

ALL THE CHATTING AND ahhhing stopped as women walked forward with their cameras and screamed their heads off to get a better view of the good-looking Josh Groban, guest of honor at the inauguration of MTV Philippines' new office at the Trivel City Mall in Pasig.

Dubbed the 28-year-old American singing sensation whose expressive tenor and lyrical baritone has sold some 15 million records worldwide, is due to perform tonight and tomorrow night at the Philippine Arena.

JOSH GROBAN, A10

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2 SIX DIGIT

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SUERTRES

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6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN

13 21 26 32 39 41

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JDV won't 'Cha-cha' with GMA

Speaker stands by self-imposed moratorium; Pimentel wary but supportive

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **SLAIN** lawyer's wife ordered arrested /A6
- **IT'S LAGUNA** solon's turn to hare bribe try /A7
- **LEYTE SOLON** asks Sandigan to reverse conviction /A11

By Christian V. Esguerra and Dona Pazo Bogado

HOUSE SPEAKER JOSE De Venecia, an all-out advocate for Charter change, yesterday distanced himself from President Macapagal-Arroyo's revived efforts to amend the Constitution to pave the way for federalism by 2012.

De Venecia said he was standing by his declaration of a one-year moratorium on any move to amend the Charter to allow government to focus on the economy.

"I made a promise to all of you [that there] will be no 'Cha-Cha' this year. I don't want to break my word, constitutional," he told reporters after the crucial commemoration yesterday of the Asian-era Philippine Assembly, the first elective legislative body in Southeast Asia.

De Venecia said the "new time" to tackle Charter change would be during the first quarter of next year, but only after a consensus is built among key sectors like government, political parties, civil society, academe, the Church and the media.

He said he would sit down with the President to clarify her points in her latest move to revive Charter change, such as the merits and "specific areas of constitutional reforms."

"Federalism is a very good idea. You need a period of [at] 10 [years for transition," he said.

On Monday, Mr. Arroyo said she was forming a panel to draft "a roadmap to federalism by 2012," to consist of the heads of the Senate and local government and justice departments, the Presidential Management Staff, the National Economic and Development Authority and local government executives and legislators.

Albayan Rep. Ifas Honteveros noted in his position paper that the new Charter draft did not seem to resolve the Moro's, a key figure in a similar campaign in the 14th Congress, whose support would be needed for it to succeed.

Renewed interest

Honteveros said the renewed interest in federalism could be related to the huge cash gifts Dan Makapilang allegedly distributed to local government officials and House members last week. Federalism is a subject that would be pleasing to the local executives, she said.

"It's not a call for genuine federalism, which should lead to empowerment from below. [How] Cha-cha to ensure to consolidate the support of the President's local allies to respond to a threat that emanates from [De Venecia]," she said.

The declaration of the Speaker's son about the alleged bribery in the 2329-million national broadband network (NBN) deal have supposedly caused a rift between the President and De Venecia.

The move to revive Charter change may not be related to the impeachment moves against the President but rather may be that as it appears behind the reported payoffs to local officials, said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, president of the United Opposition.

Binay said the recent push for Cha-cha could be the President's "final desperate gamble to stay in power forever."

He said the main proponents of Charter change were the "same personalities who met with Mrs. Arroyo and her political lieutenants in Malacañang," to which Palace staff were reported to have distributed money ranging from P200,000 to P500,000.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday gingerly gave support for the President's call for federalism by 2012 as he said he has long advocated a shift to a federal system.

Pimentel said he shares the "suspicions of many people" that the revival of Cha-cha was a ploy to divert attention away from the controversial NBN-ZTE deal.

"Because my advocacy of federalism started long before Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became President and transcends political considerations or differences, the idea that it should exist be discussed is acceptable to me," he said.

But Pimentel stressed that while he supports the campaign for federalism, he would never "agree to any ploy" that would extend the President's hold on power beyond 2010. With a report from Ed Sip

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"WATCH AND PRAY"

October 4, 2007

Sto. Isabel College – Taft Avenue, Manila

We, concerned Church people from the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP), the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines of the National Capital Region (CEAP-NCR), the Manila Archdiocesan and Parochial Schools Association (MAPSA), and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) gathered today, October 4, 2007, at the Sto. Isabel College, Manila to reflect on the present turbulence in Philippine society caused by the unfolding of events in the on-going Senate hearings. We gathered in contemplation on the events and issues and sought to reflect on these in the light of our faith.

The present controversy has affected us deeply and awakened many feelings:

- Confusion, because amidst charges and counter-charges, the truth behind the latest NBN-ZTE controversy still eludes us, and government leaders continue refuse to be accountable and transparent to the people who have a right to know;
- Anger and outrage at the potential harm done to the Filipino people, by a contract now already scrapped, that would have placed an enormous economic burden on the Filipino people, for the sake of the vested interests of a few;
- Even greater anger when we glimpse that this project, carried out with great secrecy, involved corruption on a very large scale, apparently enticing leaders in very high places. How high this corruption goes still remains to be discovered;
- Deep dissatisfaction and loss of trust, because this is but the latest instance in a long series of still unresolved cases of apparent corruption among public officials;
- Sadness and disillusionment because this recent controversy is another manifestation of the culture of corruption, non-accountability and impunity, which plagues not only the government but also much of our Philippine culture, and which exacerbates the already excessive poverty of our people.

Moved by our Christian faith in the Lord Jesus and by Church documents as the Catholic social vision which calls all, especially those in public office to work for the common good, we commit ourselves to the following:

1. ADVOCACY FOR TRUTH AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Despite our weariness, we resolve to advocate for the continued search for truth, behind what seems like a cover-up aimed at shielding the Filipino people from the refuse to "move on" in the name of a promised progress, because we know that unless a culture and the protocols of transparency and accountability are in place, no progress will be real and lasting. This resolve includes a demand to bring to justice those found guilty in a credible process of inquiry related to the guilty of crimes against the Filipino people.

2. CULTURAL REDEMPTION

We acknowledge that corruption is ingrained in our culture. Indeed, in ourselves. We commit ourselves and our institutions to cultural renewal. We will examine ourselves in the light of the Gospel values of honesty and truth. We will be aware of the peril of corruption in our lives and institutions, as well as come up with ways of correcting practices which are outrightly corrupt or which border on or lead to corruption. We will promote genuine practices of integrity, and practice transparency and accountability in our own lives and in our institutions. We will reinvigorate and strengthen values formation and education at all levels.

3. ENLIGHTENMENT TOWARDS GOOD LEADERSHIP

We will help form leaders, work towards the emergence of alternative leaders, and be actively involved in the forthcoming electoral exercises, especially that of 2010, so that these will result in honest elections, that will place in power leaders who are accountable, competent and committed to the real service of our people especially the poor. This will involve working towards electoral reforms and revitalizing voters' education and advocating a credible COMELEC. This also means educating the young towards political participation and holiness.

Despite the magnitude of the challenges we face, we dare to hope extravagantly, because we believe in the goodness of our people and the power of the Lord working in and among us.

We call to mind the teachings of the Church: "Men and women have the possibility duly to direct actions towards the truth, to respect it and base adherence to it. Living in this truth has particular significance in social relationships." (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church #197). Bearing this in mind and carrying hope in our hearts, we will seek to create "islands of excellence and light" amidst a sea of darkness in our country. However modest these beginning, we believe that when these "islands" are joined together in a network, we will have built up a country of excellence and light, of integrity and truth.

SGD.

Very Rev. Jesus M. Hall, SVD
President
Most Rev. John Marmonier, CSB
Archbishop of Nueva Segovia
Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP)

Msgr. Gerardo D. Santos
Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines – the National Capital Region (CEAP-NCR)

Manila Archdiocesan & Parochial Schools Association (MAPSA)

Commodore Merville T. de Villa
Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV)

October 4, 2007
Sto. Isabel College – Manila

SC asked to stop release of AFP report

By Lelia B. Salaverria

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. has asked the Supreme Court to stop the release of the Provost Marshal Report on the missing former player which were later seen in the gruesome rebirth of the abductees of activist Jonas Burgos.

Esperon and Provost Marshal General Col. Arthur Abadilla asked the high court, through the Office of the Solicitor General, for a temporary restraining order on the Court of Appeals' subpoena for Abadilla's report and testimony on the loss of the license plates inside an Army camp in Bonanggay Bulacan.

Abadilla's report was subpoenaed during the hearing in the Court of Appeals on the petition for habeas corpus filed by Jonas' mother Edita against President Macapagal-Arroyo and several top military officers.

Jonas, son of the late press freedom fighter Joe Burgos, was abducted by armed men on April 28, 2007 from a Quezon City mall. He has since been missing.

The license plates of the abductors' gray-colour vehicle were later traced to a jeep parked inside an Army camp.

In their petition, the military officers invoked anew Memorandum Circular 78 that regulates the release of confidential documents, saying the appellate court's subpoena effectively declassified the report in violation of the separation of powers.

Petron wins TRO in Bataan

By Abigail L. Ho

PETRON CORP. HAS secured a temporary restraining order from the Bataan Regional Trial Court, preventing the provincial treasurer of Bataan from auctioning off the oil company's assets today.

In a statement yesterday, Petron said the Bataan RTC ruled that the public auction of the oil firm's properties was "premature and violates Petron's right to due process."

The provincial treasurer has scheduled the auction of Petron's refinery properties today, following the oil firm's alleged non-payment of P1.7 billion worth of realty taxes from 1996 to the first half of 2007.

Petron also pursued for legal and external affairs Jose Jesus Laurel said, however, that the provincial treasurer's claim lied on basis, adding that the realized tax assessment was "excessive, excessive and invalid."

He said Petron had been religiously paying its property taxes over the past years and was even advocating [illegible] taxes at times.

According to company records, Laurel said Petron had paid property taxes amounting to P1.071 billion, based on previous assessments made on appraised by the province.

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– Aiko Melendez, Actress

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messages

...expression congratulations of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, and the Home Development Mutual Fund as well as the other member institutions of the Philippine Social Security Association (PSSA) on the occasion of the 20th Asian Social Security Association (ASSA) Board Meeting on October 16-20, 2007 at the Heritage Hotel.

The important meeting will bring together the heads of the social security institutions of Asian countries can sharpen their expertise, update, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Social security is one of the pillars of the administration's strategy for national development and progress. Development cannot be sustained if the citizenry is secured and protected from the effects of poverty, ill-health, unemployment, old age, and disability.

It, therefore, will only be fulfilling exchanges of ideas and experiences as well as plan for possible collaborations and projects that will benefit people in the region.

[illegible]

...welcomes the members of the Asian Social Security Association (ASSA) to the Philippines. Under the able guidance of its President, Mr. Mitsuhiro Sakuma, the ASSA has been steadily growing in stature and influence as it has provided an opportunity for our officials to exchange ideas with their counterparts from other countries and come up with collective action for the improvement of our social security policies.

I extend to you my certain election in your dedication to achieve a most efficiency in your mandated tasks to foster our pursuit of achieving sustainable development for our country and the ASEAN region.

[illegible]

...extends greetings to the organizers of the 20th Asian Social Security Association Board and Technical Meeting. It is with great pride and honor that we welcome our foreign and local delegates to the gathering of social security experts to achieve the...Change of Practices and experiences on social protection for the people in the region.

It is my belief that the sharing of experiences among the countries represented in this year's annual meetings will be worthwhile activity. Over the years, the ASSA has shown its commitment to further the goals of social protection of various sectors of society and through the constant interaction among member countries, best practices are encouraged, and ever-explicit direction for the improvement of their life system.

I am confident that this meeting will again greatly help the Association in developing and promoting social security schemes among the member countries.

[illegible]

...Our warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Social Security Association (PSSA) as they host the 20th Asian Social Security Association (ASSA) Board Meeting.

The theme, "Ensuring Social Security: A Valued Investment," is relevant for millions of poor people in South-east Asia remain vulnerable to all types of risks. Therefore, constant collaboration is one important factor in expansion to develop and promote sound social policies that can help responsible governments. It is therefore our role as neighbors in social protection to come together and learn from each other's experiences.

As we meet and dialogue during the three-day event, let us strengthen our commitment to make social security programs and policies more efficient and responsive of the region's diverse and social structures. Let us also work towards a more equitable and sustainable social security system, a system that will not only benefit the current generation but also future generations.

[illegible]

...on behalf of the member institutions of the Philippine Social Security Association (PSSA), I welcome the foreign visitors and other friends gathered this 16th ASSA Board Meeting, to be held in Manila from October 16 to 19, 2007.

The successful holding of various organizations tasked with providing social protection in our respective countries, we all share common objectives, experiences and concerns, the importance of our work in ensuring the continued growth of a chief mechanisms in the ASSA region.

This event therefore can put in focus the meeting not also considering solutions or probable approaches to common concerns but also considering the challenges that we face in the implementation of the programs and projects that we have in the respective countries. I believe we can come up with sound and viable solutions that can improve the lives and well-being of our members and beneficiaries.

I commend the PHILHEALTH, GSIS, SSS and other members executives of PSSA for encouraging together the delegations' delegates to the ASSA Convention. Indeed, our country will greatly benefit from the endeavor as it would provide an opportunity for our officials to exchange ideas with their counterparts from other countries and come up with collective action for the improvement of our social security policies.

I extend to you my certain election in your dedication to achieve a most efficiency in your mandated tasks to foster our pursuit of achieving sustainable development for our country and the ASEAN region.

[illegible]

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I am confident that this meeting will again greatly help the Association in developing and promoting social security schemes among the member countries.

[illegible]

The 20th ASSA Board Meeting

Ensuring Social Security

RP hosts 20th ASEAN Meet on Social Security

The Philippines is hosting the 20th ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA) Board Meeting from October 16 to 20, 2007 at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City. The conference is jointly organized by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS) and the Philippine Social Security Association. (PHILSSA).

The theme of the three-day meet is "Ensuring Social Security." It aims to promote Regional cooperation in all areas of social security activities, exchange experience and information on social security, and cooperate in the definition, promotion and development of social security schemes through trainings, seminars, consultations and dialogues, among others.

Renowned authorities from social security institutions in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and the Philippines will convene to promote the development of social security in the Asia-Pacific Region in consonance with the aspirations, thrust and regulations of the ASSA member-countries.

Leading the roster of guest speakers is Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III who will give the keynote address. Other speakers include former Executive Secretary Eliseo Gozos who will tackle The investment and Social Security; Gerard Ralmgo Executive Director Antonio Medalo who will talk on Empowering the Poor; Home Development Mutual Fund President and CEO and PHILSSA Chair Atty. Romeo Quimbo who will share experiences on Social Security in the Philippines and Philhealth Acting President and CEO Lorna G. Pajarito who will discuss Digital Convergence.

Consultants of the International Labor Organization Ed ward Tamagno and Barbara Jo Desiderio will also talk on Social Security Agreements in ASEAN Countries and on the Philippine experience in Governing Human Resources for Migrant Workers, respectively.

Host social security practices in Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines will also be presented.

The ASSA

THE ASIAN SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION (ASSA) is the umbrella organization of social security institutions from eight (8) countries in the Asia-Pacific region, namely: Brunei, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. It was established through the signing of the Articles of Agreement during the 1st General Assembly in 1988 in Manila.

Objectives of the ASSA

The objectives of the ASSA are as follows:

1. To promote the development of social security in the Asian region in accordance with the policies, laws and regulations of the countries concerned;
2. To exchange experiences and information on social security;
3. To encourage cooperation with other international organizations;
4. To enter into cooperation with other organizations and associations; and
5. To undertake such other activities as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of the ASSA.

The ASSA is composed of the following categories of members:

1. Ordinary Members - Social Security Institutions and Delegates arising out of the objectives through trainings, seminars, consultations and dialogues among others.

The present officers of the ASSA are:

Chairman: Mr. Mitsuhiro Sakuma, President and CEO, Social Security Association (SSA), Japan

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Lorna G. Pajarito, Acting President and Chief Executive Officer, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, Philippines

Members: Mr. Ong Tiang Sui, Chief Executive Officer, Central Provident Fund Board, Singapore; Mr. Soh Chat Seng, Chief Executive Officer, Social Security Organization, Malaysia; Mr. Chin Anakot Potaraji, Secretary General, Social Security Office, Thailand; Mr. Nguyen Van Hai, Director General, Vietnam Social Security, Vietnam; Mr. Eric Alexander Ferraris, President and General Manager, Government Service Insurance System, Philippines; Mr. Lorenzo G. Santos Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, Social Security System, Philippines; Mr. Lim Ching Sai, Chief Executive Officer, Central Provident Fund Board, Singapore; Mr. Sarin Chirachat, Secretary General, Social Security Office, Thailand; Dr. Nguyen Hai Hai, Director General, Vietnam Social Security, Vietnam

Secretary-General: Mr. Ibrahim Bin Yah, Senior General Manager, Employment Insurance Fund, Malaysia

MEMBERS OF THE ASSA BOARD

Chairman
Hiroshi Asian Lionel
Chief Executive Officer
Employment Insurance Fund
Malaysia

Vice-Chairman
Lorna G. Pajarito
Acting President and Chief Executive Officer
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
Philippines

Members
Among Tiang Sui @ Ahid Sulaiman
Acting Managing Director
Employees Trust Fund
Brunei

Dr. Chin Anakot Potaraji
Secretary General, PP Adisa
Indonesian National Social Security Association
Indonesia

Mr. Bhanupkorsung Sethaseng
Director General
Social Security Organization
Lao PDR

Dr. Soh Chat Seng
Chief Executive Officer
Social Security Organization
Malaysia

Attorney Winston F. Garcia
President and General Manager
Government Service Insurance System
Philippines

Mr. Lorenzo G. Santos Jr. Ito Sa
President and Chief Executive Officer
Social Security System
Philippines

Mr. Lim Ching Sai
Chief Executive Officer
Central Provident Fund Board
Singapore

Mr. Sarin Chirachat
Secretary General
Social Security Office
Thailand

Dr. Nguyen Hai Hai
Director General
Vietnam Social Security
Vietnam

Secretary-General
Mr. Ibrahim Bin Yah
Senior General Manager
Employment Insurance Fund
Malaysia

guest speakers

Opening of
Pre-ASSA Board Meeting

Lionel Asian Lionel
President, Employees Provident Fund
Chair, ASSA (Social Security Association)

Keynote Address
"Ensuring Social Security"

Hon. Francisco T. Duque III, M.D.
Secretary, Department of Health

"Empowering the Poor"

Mr. Antonio F. Salinas
Global Strategy Builder
2006 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Community Leadership

"The Environment and Social Security"

Ms. Elyse C. Tyner
ASEC Chairperson of the Earth Council Alliance Environment Program

"Social Security Agreements in ASEAN Countries"

Mr. Edward Tamagno
Consultant, International Labor Organization

"Overseas Security Administration to Ensure Social Security for Migrant Workers' The Case of the Philippines"

Ms. Barbara Jo I. Desiderio
Consultant, International Labor Organization

"Social Security in the Philippines"

Atty. Romeo M. Quimbo
President and CEO, Home Development Mutual Fund Chair, Philippine Social Security Association

"Digital Convergence"

Mr. Lorna G. Pajarito
President and CEO, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation Chair, ASSA (Social Security Association)

The PHILSSA

THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCIES (PHILSSA) was established on July 1, 1988 with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among participating agencies (Code for OWS, PhilHealth and SSS). The three Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), the Employees Compensation Commission (ECC) and the Social Security of the Philippines - Retirement and Separation Benefit System (SSSRS) are also among the original member agencies of PHILSSA.

After a hiatus from 2000-2002, the PHILSSA was revived by then PhilHealth President and CEO Ernesto Antonio Medalo who still talk on Empowering the Poor; Home Development Mutual Fund President and CEO and PHILSSA Chair Atty. Romeo Quimbo who will share experiences on Social Security in the Philippines and Philhealth Acting President and CEO Lorna G. Pajarito who will discuss Digital Convergence.

Consultants of the International Labor Organization Edward Tamagno and Barbara Jo Desiderio will also talk on Social Security Agreements in ASEAN Countries and on the Philippine experience in Governing Human Resources for Migrant Workers, respectively.

Host social security practices in Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines will also be presented.

Center in February 2006, and was succeeded by the Insurance Commission as Head Office Managing Agency.

There are six (6) PHILSSA committees, namely, Committee on Fraud Control and Detection Systems, Committee on Information Technology and Data Sharing, Committee on Membership and Public Relations, Committee on Investment and Legislative Affairs, and Financial Actuarial and Research Committee.

With the end-view of developing the social security system of the Philippines, PHILSSA has also conducted and completed research papers on current subjects in their functional scope namely, the problems of social security schemes, social security data system, and fraud abuse control and detection in social security administration.

The current Chair of the PHILSSA is Atty. Romeo Quimbo, President and CEO of HDMF.

Chiz asks Alan: Why the secrecy?

By Ed C. Catacutan Jr.

ISCUDERO

OPPOSITION SEN. Francis "Chiz" Escudero is questioning Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano's decision to keep under wraps yesterday's continuation of Environment Jose "Joey" de Venecia III before the technical working group of the blue ribbon committee.

Cayetano, who has been criticized for supposedly going slow on the Senate probe into the $329-million national broadband network (NBN) deal with the Chinese-based ZTE Corp., is chair of the blue ribbon, of which Escudero is the vice chair.

Escudero, who called a press conference yesterday said he did not know of any rules prescribing that the hearings of the technical working group be kept secret. What he knew was that such meetings are to be kept open to the public unless it is declared that the hearing would be held behind closed doors in executive session, he said.

Something new

"That's something new to me. I don't want to raise the issue to fight with him [Cayetano] but just to ask why it was done behind closed doors without necessarily voicing any doubt with respect to [the] success behind it," the senator said.

Earlier, opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal made the accusation that Cayetano and Senate President Manuel Villar were being forced to scuttle the NBN probe by Malacañang and an influential businessman.

According to Escudero, the NBN probe, though it opened to a roaring start, had lost its momentum because of the unusually long gap between the last hearing (Sept. 27) and the next (Oct. 25).

"It cannot be denied that it has cooled down because of the long delay. But it's the government's fault why it has remained a hot issue because of the many talk on bribes and the impeachment and their intention to prove that they are right and not wrong by pushing for the ZTE contract," said Escudero.

After the technical working group meeting, De Venecia told reporters that he was asked "unofficially questions on some of the events and some of the meetings held with Deputies Chair Benjamin Abalos and other [transportation and communications department] officials."

De Venecia said he was hopeful that Bishop Nevi, chair of the Commission on Higher Education, would appear in the hearing scheduled for Oct. 25 to respond to questions on what the President did after being informed of the bribe offer to Nevi.

"If he does not, there's nothing else," said De Venecia.

SUSPECTED PARRICIDE 'MASTERMIND'

Slain lawyer's wife ordered arrested

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORdered the immediate arrest of the wife of Jun Veloria, the chief of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel who was murdered seven years ago, on suspicion that she masterminded the killing of her husband.

The high court said there was strong proof to implicate Milagros Baleña, also known as Marinas, in the fatal shooting of her husband right in front of their Quezon City home. It ordered her immediate arrest and detention and the cancellation of her bail bond.

The Supreme Court affirmed another suspect in the case, Samuel Rasay, to serve state witness, overruling a Quezon City regional trial court order, affirmed by the Court of Appeals, that allowed Milagros to post bail and denied a prosecution plea to make Rasay a state witness.

The high court said the lower court should not have given Milagros temporary liberty as one of the suspects had confessed to shooting Jun and had tagged Milagros, who is charged with parricide, as the mastermind.

Principal by inducement

"When taken in conjunction with the other evidence on record, these facts show very strongly that Milagros may have participated as principal by inducement in the murder of Jun Veloria. It was then a grave error or a grave abuse of discretion committed by the trial court to grant her application for bail, "the high court said in the decision, promulgated on Oct. 10.

Milagros argued that she was entitled to bail because the evidence against her was weak. She said the Quezon City court's findings on the credibility of the witnesses should be respected as it was the lower court that heard the testimonies. She also doubted Rasay's statements implicating her as principal mastermind.

The high court said it disagreed with the lower court's ruling that Rasay's testimony would only corroborate that of the witness, Modesto Caballes, who testified that he had heard Milagros asking his cousin, Antonio Caballes, about Jun's (Milagros' and Marinas') plan to kill Jun Veloria.

The high court said Modesto's testimony tended to establish that Milagros and suspect Antonio Caballes, who has confessed to the crime, had plotted the killing, and that Rasay would supply the evidence that would prove that the two had carried out their murder plan.

Jun Veloria was shot dead in front of his home in Diliman, Quezon City at 12:30 in the morning of March 18, 2000. He was shot with an unlicensed .38 caliber revolver.

Milagros was subsequently charged with parricide, while Antonio Caballes, Jimmies, Rasay and Quintana were charged with murder.

Meteor shower

BEGINNING EARLY today, meteors from the Orion constellation will be streaking across the sky and will be visible in the eastern part of the sky, the weather bureau said yesterday.

The annual Orionids meteor shower is expected to peak on Oct. 21 and 22, at a maximum rate of 20 to 25 meteors per hour, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

"The best time to view it is midnight and onwards. They will be gradually increasing in number by the mid-to-late [illegible]," Prisco del Rosario, head of Pagasa astronomical observatory division, said in an interview. TJ Burgonio

Noli asks NHA to help railway folk

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO has challenged the National Housing Authority (NHA) to work on improving the quality of life of the more than 8,000 railway families it has relocated to various resettlement areas of the government.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), made the statement during the 32nd foundation anniversary of the PEMAC Quezon City Chapter.

He said the economic realities of the relocated squatters was more important than housing statistics as far as the national relocation programs was concerned.

"There are often, Jdadi ang statistics ng mga inspirations dahil ang mga ngiti sa mga mukhang ng pulubito. Hindi statistics kundi quality of life ang hanap ng ating Ayuso Kasi dito, (The quality of life, not statistics...that's what's important. This is my challenge to you)," De Castro said.

He said the NHA's job was not only to provide the homeless with security of tenure but also to establish vibrant communities for the relocatees.

NHA General Manager Federico Lana has relocated a total of 8,446 railway families from Tondo, Manila in 2006 to December this year.

De Castro noted that the NHA no longer encounters difficulties in dealing with affected families since many of them now volunteer to be relocated nearer to their jobs in the past.

"Sadmod, we are getting better and smarter," he said.

Now, it's Laguna solon's turn to bare bribe try

By Norman Bordadora

YESTERDAY, IT WAS LAGUNA REP. EDGAR JOEL LUIS' turn to allege bribery in connection with an attempt to file a new impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Luis, who was put on the spot for signing what many of Nicolas-Lagman claim is a fake, petitioner complaint that would remember the President from a younger age in the future, now accuses one of his colleagues of offering him money to withdraw that endorsement.

He had denied the reported anomalous moves for endorsing the controversial complaint of lawyer Raul Pulido. However, it became suspect after labor group representative Crispin Beltran claimed he was offered P5 million by a lawyman of Arroyo's Kampi party to endorse the same complaint.

In an interview at his residence in Quezon City, Sen. Luis told the business that another congressman, described as a member of an administration party, but who is called both the opposition, told him that a group wanted him to withdraw his signature from the Pulido impeachment complaint.

The caller, he said, added that there was something for me from the group.

"He called me around 9:30 a.m. on Thursday," said Sen. Luis, but didn't specify what benefits he'd get if he withdrew his endorsement.

Sen. Luis threw in another clue about the caller's identity: He is a godparent "(speaker Jose de Venecia.

"I don't know who he was (making by, if he was for dialing on for De Venecia or Malacañang," said Sen. Luis.

Thursday morning was the time Ms. Arroyo had breakfast with almost 200 members of the administration coalition in the House. She later met with speaker De Venecia and his deputy speakers also in Malacañang.

Sen. Luis said Sr lawmakers have either approached him personally or called him on the phone to ask him to withdraw his endorsement. He said he would no longer remember all their names.

He added that he has also received death threats through phone calls and text messages.

"Some are obvious pranks but I'm not taking any chances," Sen. Luis said.

Sen. Luis said he believes he must have derailed the plans of factions in the administration when he endorsed the complaint.

The week impeachment complaint will detail the filing of a more substantial complaint based on the ongoing congressional inquiry into allegations that resigned Commission of Elections chief Benjamin Abalos offered bribes to other government officials to subvert the results of the disputed 2004 national broadband network (NBN) contract in favor of the Chinese ZTE Corp.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 16 ISSUE, an article on Page A16—"Senate, Villar top SWS survey"—misspelled the name of the Supreme Court Chief Justice. The correct spelling of the Chief Justice's name is Reyltano—not Reynato—Puno.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 13 ISSUE, a story on Page A4—"Estrada wants to stop longer meeting trip to San Juan"—reported the year when deposed President Joseph Estrada was placed under house arrest at his villa in Tanay, Rizal. Estrada was brought to Tanay in 2000—not 2001.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a Business article on Page B4—"Private equity company investing in savings bank"—contained an erroneous sentence that said the Magalco Group owns a major shareholder in GMA Network and Liberty Flour Mills. The sentence should have read: "Malaysia Bank's major shareholders include the Magalco Group and the respective major shareholders of GMA Network and Liberty Flour Mills."

* * *

IN THE OCT. 13 ISSUE, a front page window caption/ an erroneous headline—"PhilHealth stops payment of claims for cataract surgery." Ki-ri-ri-ri-an, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. said that it would "disencumber the compensability of claims" only for cataract operations performed "during medical outreach and other reimbursement schemes for cataract surgery."

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a basic page attribute—"Casualty estimates in tourist attractions"—reported the number of persons killed in the 1991 Mount Pinatubo eruption. Less than 1,000—not more than 1,500—people died in the eruption. The outlet mistakes appeared in the caption of the front page photo accompanying the article.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 17, 2007
28th Week in Ordinary Time
Ignatius of Antioch

Lk 12:39-48 / Rom 2:1-11
Gospel: Luke 12:42-48

Jesus said, "I want to see you, Pharisees, for the Temple you give a tenth of all, including mint and rue and the other herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. This ought to be practiced, without neglecting the other. A crime is no sin, Pharisees, for you hate the best seats in the synagogues and to be greeted in the marketplaces. A crime is no sin for you are like tombstones of the dead which one hardly be seen, people don't notice them and make themselves unclean by stepping on them."

There a teacher of the Law spoke up and said, "Master, when you speak like this, you insult us, too." And Jesus countered, "A curse is on you also, teachers of the Law. For you prepare unbearable burdens, and load them on the people's backs but you yourselves don't move a finger to help them."

Reflection

Words of judged fathers God and should be sorted of judging others because usually we are doing the same things we call them to account for. Do we have and responsibility in our hands? If the judgment of God was open as today would we hear God's voice for the good we have done, or would we have to shudder at what we have done that is evil?

Jesus takes up the refrain: "Woe to you Pharisees, pay tithes on little things (the bit and anise) but you overlook love of God. These are what is essential to religion for us practice and love of God. Are we also guilty of such sins? Are we impressed by our piety? And yet what are our hearts made like? Jesus indicts them—the hearts and reasons is a problem of authority in liturgy and teaching. So it is for us: calling those churches he burdens us others and do nothing to lighten their lives. What is Jesus saying to us today in our churches, communities?

(Scripture Reflections by: Fr. Miguel O. Bernad, SJ, CSP 65 Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, CP 401, Fax: 4-1-3000, 924 Quezon City, Tel.: 921-5966; Fax: 921-5220; e-mail: mbernad@cbcp; Website: http://www.bible.ca/bible/bible-catholic.htm; Publication: Philippine Daily Inquirer; http://www.inquirer.net (Courtesy: 4th centuries in the Philippines)

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Marines affected by latest political row

From page A1

"political squabbling" and instead focus on preserving peace and order.

The AFP conducts weekly "Troop Information and Education (TIME) forum wherein troops are kept abreast of current events, among others.

"I have been making the rounds, telling officers and men that the Armed Forces of the Philippines should be apolitical at all times. We should be neutral because we are the only institution that is entrusted by society to maintain peace and order," Doludulme said, likening the military to a "solid wall."

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, AFP spokesperson, acknowledged that the troops were conscious of the media reports on the alleged robbery.

"The issue might be subject of informal discussions, but this will not have an impact on AFP operations. They remain focused on their job," Bacarro said in a text message to the Inquirer.

No serious impact on Army

Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres, Philippine Army spokesperson, told the Inquirer that the Army's officers and men were cognizant of the allegations in the media that Molmolaring handed out bribes purportedly to allow President Macapagal-Arroyo to escape a Feb. 24 poachment attempt.

"We're aware [of the issue] from what we see and hear in the media. But we don't feel any serious impact on the Army," Torres said in a phone interview.

Doludulme said that not only would the "enemies of the state" benefit from another military uprising it would also most likely spark a "civil war."

'Let's not take a gamble'

"A civil war is not serious if the AFP gets involved. That is the main reason why we should remain solid and neutral at all times," Doludulme said.

Asked why a military uprising this time could earn blandly compared to the peaceful People Power Revolts in 1986 and 2001, Doludulme replied: "Let's not take a gamble. The next time could lead to a civil war. It's difficult if people with guns are involved."

Doludulme said that had then Marine commandant Brig. Gen. Antonio Tadiar not been a professional, there would have been a "bloody confrontation" during the 1986 Edsa Revolution that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Tadiar led the Marine contingent with tanks and armored trucks but refused to fire at the thousands of people, including priests and nuns, that blocked its way to Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame held by rebellious soldiers.

"It would have become a bloody confrontation between the progovernment and antigovernment forces to see [whose] side shooters as far as the use of military force is concerned," Doludulme said.

NAJ. GEN. Benjamin Dolorfino, Philippine Marine commandant (left), and US Marine Col. John Meyer at the opening of RP-US training exercise.

A FILIPINO Marine honor guard holds a US flag at the start of two-week amphibious exercise with American counterparts at site of alleged Mabalacat payoffs to lawmakers and local officials.

PHILIPPINE honor guard at the US-Philippine Marines training program dubbed Balikatan remain focused despite nation's political woes.

Gossip more potent than truth, says study

From page A1

drama to the contrary.

Researchers, testing students using a computer game, also found gossip played an important role when people make decisions, according to Staff Sergeant Ryan Hauck, a psychologist at the Max Planck Institute in Germany, who led the study.

"We show that gossip has a strong influence ... even when participants have access to the original information as well as gossip about the same information," the researchers wrote in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Thus, it is evident that gossip has a strong manipulative potential."

To probe the role of gossip in this context, the researchers set up an experiment in which 126 undergraduate students engaged in a series of computer-based games with money stakes, just cents or advertisers.

The students were given a pot of 10 euros ($14) and allowed to choose whether to give their "partners" a fixed donation ($1.75), or withhold the money.

In later rounds, the players were given notes about the way their adversaries had behaved in previous rounds, and specifically whether they were generous or not.

No to misers

Students tended to give less money to people described as "nasty misers" or "arrogant" and more to those depicted as "generous players" or "social players," Hauck said.

"People only use the gossip for the past decisions," he said in a telephone interview. "People really reacted to it."

The researchers then took the game a step further and showed the students the actual decisions people had made. But they also supplied false gossip that contradicted that evidence.

Surprisingly, in these cases, the students based their decision to reward enemy on the gossip, rather than the hard evidence, showing such information is a powerful tool, Hauck said.

To hear is to believe

"Statistically if you know what the people did, you should cooperate, but they still listened to what others said," Sommerfield said.

"They even reacted on it if they knew better."

Researchers have long used similar games to study how people cooperate and the impact of gossip in groups. Scientists define gossip as social information spread about a person who is not present, Sommerfield said.

Damaging to reputations

In civilizations various, gossip can be an important tool for people to acquire information about others' reputations or navigate through social networks at work and in their everyday lives, the study said.

One example could be using gossip to learn that a potential mate had cheated on others, something which could make that person an undesirable match, Sommerfield said. Reports from dwaters and AFP

RP once again part of US global posture

From page A1

"In places of traditional overseas bases with extensive infrastructure," Stanfield said, "we intend to use smaller forward-operating bases with prepositioned equipment and rotational presence of personnel ... Still another model is smaller forward-operating bases in the Pacific while also stationing ships, expeditionary forces capable of rapid response at our power projection bases."

The characteristics of the JSOFTF fit this description. Mosher said, however, the JSOFTF has none of the extensive infrastructure and facilities of the former US bases in Subic and Clark. But with the availability of local logistics and other services assured, the free entry of ships and planes and the pre-positioning of equipment already in place, Mosher said, the new roads, ports, and other infrastructure the United States has been building in the area, the US Special Forces will be ready and able at a moment's notice to launch and sustain its operations in the region.

As evidenced by the fact that most Filipinos are not even aware of their presence and their actions, "the JSOFT had succeeded as a political mechanism for getting an American base-of-sorts up and running," according to Robert Kaplan, a prominent American journalist who has visited 125 military facilities around the world.

C.H. Briscoe, command historian of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, under which the units of the JSOFTF belong, countered: "After more than 10 years, JSOTF has reestablished an acceptable presence in the Philippines."

Strategically positioned between two oceans at the entrance of a major sea lane, the Malacañan Strait, at the southwestern rim of the South China Sea and adjacent to Malaysia and Indonesia thus most of the area of the Philippines, the JSOTF-P accord, ing to Briscoe, is "now better able to monitor the political dynamics of the region."

Having secured this presence, the United States has become closer to the Philippines, with "the premier position to compete militarily" with it. By getting the United States "semi-permanently" based south of Luzon for the first time since World War II, Kaplan noted that "the largest-than-necessary base complex" in Zamboanga had delivered more than tactical benefits.

In the minds of the US Army strategists, Kaplan said: "Combatting Islamic terrorism in this region [Southeast Asia] carried a secondary benefit for the United States: It positioned the US for the future containment of mainly China."

Qualitatively transformed

All of the steps discussed show how joined the army for the gradual and incremental recovery of the US military to the Philippines. At no time, since 1995, has US military presence been more entrenched.

At the same time, that US presence is no longer the same; it has been qualitatively transformed.

No longer are US troops permanently stationed and confined inside large bases in two locations in the country (bases turned from rotational bases, the troops have been deployed in various locations all over the country for exercises and other missions.

Instead of being housed in the thousands inside huge fortifications flying the US flag, American troops in the hundreds are dispersed and housed inside camps that technically belong to the Philippine military.

In the past, US troops would, despite the occasional deployment, expect to stay for long periods of time, stationed in the same base for years. Now, they are to be always ready and on the move, prepared to take part in shorter but more frequent deployments overseas.

Before, they stored their equipment, weapons, and supplies in huge storerooms and warehouses inside their base complex at all times, ready to lift and carry them wherever they went. Now, they are scattering and storing their equipment and supplies in various locations, guarded and maintained by host nation governments or private companies, and ready to be picked up on the way to the fighting.

All these changes in the Philippines are consistent with the overlapping goals of building up support for and countering domestic opposition to US presence while improving the agility and efficiency of the US military.

Trial balloons

But this too could change: for while large bases have three disadvantages, they also provide the guaranteed access, capacities, and other advantages that smaller, more austere bases cannot. Also, while the leasing arrangements that the United States is developing now can be useful for certain situations, they may not be appropriate and sufficient for others.

In case of a long drawn out standoff, for instance, it would take more than 500 Special Forces stationed in relatively simple bases to sustain US military operations.

Hence, given the right moment and given the need, if plans are not in fact afoot, the United States may still want to reestablish larger bases in the Philippines. Given US strategy and the Philippines' location, the possibility cannot be ruled out.

Indeed, Benjamin reports that the United States is trying to reestablish bases in the country have been characterized by an analyst with the Brookings Institute as "trial balloons" to test the atmosphere.

For the moment, however, it cannot be said that just because the United States does not have large bases of the kind it used to have, the superpower has not been securing its military objectives in the country.

Through the back door and largely out of sight, the United States has gradually but incrementally reintegrated the Philippines firmly within its "global posture."

All these may have effectively restored that historic decision, taken 16 years ago, to end nearly a century of US military presence in the country.

(Herbert Bruce Thelen@pdcweb.org) is a researcher with Focus on the Global South, a policy research institute.)

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Opposition hopes pro-GMA solons will agree to investigate payoffs

Front page ▸ A1

the outcome of the impeachment complaint in favor of the President and ensure guaranteed administration.

It identified Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco and Pangasinan Rep. Rachel Arenas as among those who cautioned meeting twenty from Malacañang. It also mentioned at least two administration congressmen who continued receiving funds.

Sen. Serafin Lucero and Governors Eddie Panlilio of Pampanga and Joselito Mendoza of Benguet should be summoned as early as January to explain alleged bribes given by Malacañang to local officials and congressmen last week.

"We need them to testify under oath what they told media and more. They may provide the impetus to the conscientious public officials who have knowledge of the bribery, especially those who have firsthand information on the sources of the funds given out," Lucero said in a text message to the Inquirer.

Lucero had sought an inquiry into the alleged payoff in order to break the "conspiracy of code of silence," after the Palace had imposed on Cabinet officials and military officers who have been threatened or rebuked to, in keeping their silence.

General to the probe is whether the cash gifts came from public funds or private fundraisers.

Both Panlilio and Mendoza have admitted receiving P500,000 each after a meeting with the President in Malacañang last Thursday, but they were unsure of where the funds were from.

The revelations came on the heels of reports that congressmen who met with the President the same day were also handed the cash gifts and charges that a Bataan executive had offered P2 million so a few congressmen to support a bid to impeachment complaint.

"Whether they admit it or not that they received the cash gifts, it is obligation to give them an opportunity to explain their side because their names have already been named," Sen. Francis Pangilinan said in a press conference.

ABOUT-FACE? Representatives Teddy Casiño of Bayan Muna and Lan Fugoso of Gabriela hold copy of resolution calling for an inquiry into claims of Malacañang payoffs. (Jess Escueta)

Arenas denies receiving payoff

REP. RACHEL ARENAS (Pangasinan) denied she received money from Malacañang after President Macapagal-Arroyo met with lawmakers last week.

In a statement, Arenas said she arrived late in Malacañang and "was not privy to what happened during that meeting."

"I received a check from the House of Representatives covering my salary and duties allowance for the month of October," said the neophyte opposition congressman of Pangasinan.

"I believe that it has been a tradition to receive these emoluments before any congressional break," she said.

Arenas stressed: "I strongly deny receiving any money from Malacañang."

Arenas was mentioned in an Inquirer story on Monday as among the officials who admitted receiving money at the Palace following his lawyers meeting with congressmen. Gabriel Caballeroso, Inquirer Northern Luzon

A job for Ombudsman

But Panlilio said he preferred that the matter be investigated first by the Office of the Ombudsman before the Senate holds its investigation which, he added, should be limited to fact-finding not of inter-chamber tensions.

"It's the job of the Ombudsman to investigate this. The Ombudsman should not let this opportunity pass," he said.

Bonifacio Bgy. Eleandro Madronio, chair of the committee on ethics, said his panel would be ready to conduct the inquiry once the House plenary orders the resolution to the committee by November.

"If the alleged payoffs that happened in Malacañang on Oct. 11, 2007 tend to confirm such suspicions. On that same day, Speaker Jose de Venecia inhibited himself from acting on the complaint after which members of the majority immediately referred said complaint to the committee on justice," the lawmaker said.

It added that the retrieval of the complaint denied other House members to amend the weak complaint filed by lawyer Noel Pulido and endorsed by Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis. The referral "automatically rendered (it) the President from another impeachment complaint for a period of one year," it said.

"The changing of hands of such huge amounts of cash right after a meeting called by the President ... and the undue haste with which the impeachment complaint was acted upon is a cause for public concern," Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño said.

Resolution ensures probe

"The Speaker and the chair of the House committee on ethics have said this has to be investigated. But there are just words. With this resolution, we're made sure that they will act on the alleged bribery," Casiño said in a news conference yesterday.

UNO plans genuine impeach case

By DJ Yap

THE UNITED OPPOSITION (UNO) yesterday announced that it would file a "real impeachment complaint" against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In an emergency meeting at the Makati City Hall, leaders of UNO said they would assemble a legal team to draft the complaint that would cite alleged irregularities in the broadband deal with China and last week's claims of payoffs to lawmakers and local officials.

"We feel the public is entitled to read a real impeachment complaint, so the public can hear our stories," former Sen. Ernesto Maceda said, referring to one filed by lawyer Noel Pulido.

"The opposition has gone on record through its leaders to the House that the Pulido impeachment complaint is a sham," he said after the meeting called by UNO president Senator Loren Legarda, Manila Rep. Teddy Casiño said.

"This is a very beautiful situation for the minority since the administration is self-destructing," Maceda said, pointing to the infighting among his former allies following the revelations of Speaker Jose de Venecia's son of overprotecting and kickbacks.

Atienza: Malacañang gifts a normal thing

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purported distribution of money to lawmakers and local governments officials last week was "really nothing extraordinary."

"It's a norm. I also received such financial aid," he told reporters. "The discretionary funds of Presidents are overflowing. Sharing this occasionally is a normal thing that I have personally experienced."

Atienza, who cash gifts over hundred to local officials in Malacañang on special occasions, like the holidays season.

"On several occasions, the city of Manila benefited from such aid," he said, admitting that the gifts amounted to hundreds of thousands of pesos. "In one occasion, there was P1M(1,000). In another, there was P200,000."

At other occasions, the recipients were given checks, he said.

Aba other Presidents

Atienza stressed that he had received largesse not only from Mr. Arroyo but also from her predecessors, Presidents Joseph Estrada and Fidel Ramos.

"I also received cash gifts at the Palace from different presidents."

He said there was no cause for the public to raise a howl over the supposed distribution of money in Malacañang on Oct. 11.

Asked to comment on charges that the money was part of Palace efforts to quash a fresh impeachment complaint against the President, Atienza said: "That's a matter of one's opinion. In our time, there was cases one after another.

"Was there a time that there was no crisis in the presidency? It's a continuing, never-ending litany of supposed sins. Any time you give those gifts, somebody will always say it's questionable. The impeachments is a lament of Democrats bringing over the President's head all the time. So when is the right time?"

He advised calls for officials who had received such cash gifts to come out in the open. "Why don't they come out and say 'We've received gifts not only from President Arroyo, but also from President Estrada, President Ramos'?"

Discretionary fund

Atienza suggested that the public examine the discretionary fund of the Presidents, and study how it is used.

"Discretionary funds, you can give any which way. That's the essence of the law, and the local governments units also have discretionary funds," he said.

"That's up to your discretion. If you're a wise local executive or a compromise, you'd use it for projects that would help your constituents," he said.

"As a local executive, I had my own discretionary fund. I can spend it on any need of the executive. I can give it away be PR purposes that will enhance office relationship," he added.

In Malacañang, after attending a Cabinet meeting, Atienza said the cash given to local officials "officially ... comes from the discretionary fund [of the President]."

"And you also get it from other sources available to the President," he said, adding that it could even be "cash, sometimes official checks ... in different forms."

'You should be thankful'

Atienza did not comment on the propriety of distributing government funds during an election period.

But he said: "It is normal for the national government [to help] local governments. As a mayor [of Manila], I myself had received help from the national government, so I can understand that."

According to Atienza, the money has no strings attached, but the recipients are expected to be "thankful."

"If you visit the President, you should be thankful if you're given checks," he said.

He also said he was talking only about his "own personal experience" and does could not comment on Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio's admission that he had received P500,000 in cash from Malacañang. With a report from Michael Lim Ubac

Josh Groban promises high energy

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al Convention Center (PICC).

Tonight's show is strictly invitational. Those wanting to increase's performances should be shelling out as much as P1,000 to P20,000 apiece.

MTV Philippines helped promote the Manila concerts. The Philippines is the only Asian country that Groban has visited thus far.

At the inauguration party, the musical genius came dressed in suits and formal attire. Groban turned up casually garbed in a striped T-shirt, blue jeans, black denim jacket and low-cut Converse sneakers. He was also no-frills.

The look seemed to reflect Groban's desire to shatter any resistance that people, especially those outlandish to his music, may still harbor against it.

Not classical

Though he personally refutes categorization, the music Groban has recorded in the best-selling albums since 2001 have been described in various instances as classical, easy listening, gospel and operatic pop.

Groban cares little about what critics call it. He has been quoted as saying: "I've never tried to make people believe that this was classical music ... it's pop music. I have a huge respect for opera, which is why I've never done opera. There will be a specific time and place if and when I decide to tackle something from that genre. In the meantime, I've just been experimenting and trying things that work for my voice."

Wearing blinders

In a quick exchange, Groban told the Inquirer that his controversial accolade helped spark his love for music.

"Growing up in Los Angeles, I was very fortunate that musical acts came around and ... my parents were great. They'd invite me [when I was younger]."

He recalled watching a stage musical when I was nine: "[There] I was in the audience ... getting chills and freaking to myself. 'If I could make people feel the way I feel right now with my voice one day, that's everything that I'd want to do.' From that age, I just felt I had music running through me and I had blinders on and that was all I wanted to do."

Collaborations

Groban's knack for collaborating with just about any artist he fancies continues in his latest album, "Awake" (Warner), which features the African male choral group Ladysmith Black Mambazo and veteran jazz keyboardist Herbie Hancock.

"I've learned a tremendous amount [and] I would love to continue to expand," he said. "There's a certain thing that I do very well. But working with [other] artists allows me to widen my sound and bring my fans on a whole new journey."

Beyond the CDs

Asked what Filipinos can expect to hear at the PICC shows, Groban remarked: "The concert will allow me to bring forth a part of myself that I can't get across on the CDs. It's high energy, it's a great celebration and, for me, a real retrospective of the last five years of my career."

In 1998, while studying musical theater in Michigan, Groban was introduced to Grammy-winning producer/arranger David Foster, who gave him jobs as rehearsal singer for several high-profile events.

At the 1999 Grammy Awards, he was a stand-in for renowned Italian singer Andrea Bocelli and got to rehearse "The Prayer" with Celine Dion.

Years great talent followed and, in one benefit show, Groban shared the stage with Elton John, Stevie Wonder, Dionne Warwick and Robin Williams.

But it was a pivotal appearance as guest character in the television series "Alley McBeal"—in which he was made to sing—that paved the way for his entry into the recording and concert scenes.

Leyte solon asks Sandigan to reverse graft conviction

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CONVICTED LEYTE REP. Rodolfo Codilla Jr. has asked the Sandiganbayan to overturn a decision finding him guilty of two counts of graft. Fourteen years ago, Codilla, who was then mayor of Ormoc City, had approved the business permit of his own company.

In his motion for reconsideration, he said the court had erred in convicting him because the issuance of a permit was a ministerial duty and not part of his discretionary powers as mayor.

The antigraft court's Fifth Division sentenced him to a maximum of 18 years in prison for violating the antigraft law for acquitted him on two counts of violation of the code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials and employees due to insufficiency of evidence.

Court records showed that Codilla approved, for two consecutive years, the application for gravel and sand permits of Codilla Enterprises, of which he was the registered proprietor.

Lawyers Nicolino del Rosario and Edgar Lim said the elements of graft were not present in the case as Codilla had no interest to benefit from the issuance of the permits.

They added that the court committed a "serious error" when it failed to consider that the indictment did not state the acts of omission which constituted the graft offense, thus, violating Codilla's right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him.

"There is no single indication in the information that would lead us to believe that he can be held guilty of directly or indirectly having financial or pecuniary interest in any business or transaction," the lawyers stated in the petition.

INQUIRER

OPINION

Your views on your business

Holy innocent

THREE INTERTWINED STATEMENTS MAKE UP the unholy trinity of this administration: "They are all the same, anyway"; "It is still a numbers' game"; and "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone." All three combine to create a defense for the actions of the unconscience and their proponents who are persistently mobilized in defense of a President who worships at the altar of impunity.

EDITORIAL

When that paper bag was handed over to Pampanga's Gov. Ed Panlilio, it was as if that unholy trinity of arguments was hovering over him, poised to pierce his integrity with one or two of its three sharp points. He would never have recovered from maintaining a compromising silence. That he spoke up was his redemption because it disproved this dark trinity of arguments, point by point.

Let us set aside his account of his agonizing over whether or not to even accept the money, or what to do with it; that was not unique; people wrestle with that dilemma all the time. Let us focus on his decision to bear witness to what transpired, and his inspiring, in rare, politicians to bear witness for him. That was his positive contribution, a stark demonstration that truth-telling is a means for achieving redemption. For himself and others.

It is said to have counseled that it is preferable for bishops to be wise rather than holy. There is a long tradition of "holy fools," innocent and naive, incapable of responsibility and therefore incapable of sin: child-like, and therefore, like children, one of the holy innocents. But a child-like faith is not enough when handling the grave responsibilities of governance: a bishop after all is to Catholics what a governor is to a secular nation—not just a pastor, but the chief executive for a territorial jurisdiction.

By training and inclination, Panlilio is a parish priest, a minor administrator whose administrative skills were always subordinated to his pastoral mission, a shepherd first and always and a paper-pusher last of all. A pastor is bound by divine law. The politician's actions, on the other hand, are permanently circumscribed by secular law. When the politician tries to be a pastor, the law becomes an obstacle to the higher purpose, but that is what the law is precisely supposed to prevent. The politician, being a public servant, is not meant to have the discretion a pastor possesses of rationing a higher law than the laws of man.

This is what was so dangerous, so potentially fatal, not just politically but morally, about the position Panlilio was placed when he was handed that paper bag. The priest in him has been trained not to ask whether the money he received was the forbidden fruit of current or past corruption, since his mission for his flock required his obedience to the last straw. The governor who did not stop to inspect evil motives to his being handed cash in Malacañang Palace is the same Father Panlilio who wouldn't have questioned his being handed cash in a bishop's palace.

And there lies the problem. The fundamental assumptions and orientation of a pastor stand eventually be at odds with those of the practicing politician, even of a reformist hero. The law mandates that no public money changes hands without receipts, and that no official receives or dispenses funds, without leaving behind an indelible paper trail. There is no higher law, to greater purpose, to mitigating factor in the absence of the concrete information that should surround any handling of public funds.

Had Panlilio not spoken up, the clumsy would have begun with small, scornful voices reaching a crescendo of hypocritical condemnation: See, he is just like us. See, he is just another contestant in our legions. See, the priest has sinned so he cannot cast the first stone.

Bishop Jesse Mercado of Bikhanonan said in his homily at his installation Mass that religion "is not simply a numbers game, a mere program of governance." No former dividing line between the attitudes of pastors and that of President Macapagal-Arroyo can be found. Panlilio has shown fidelity to the truth. The lesson here is that he must also show fidelity to the law. He must insist on the money and, if necessary, leave it at the President's front door. It was never here to dispense or Panlilio's to receive.

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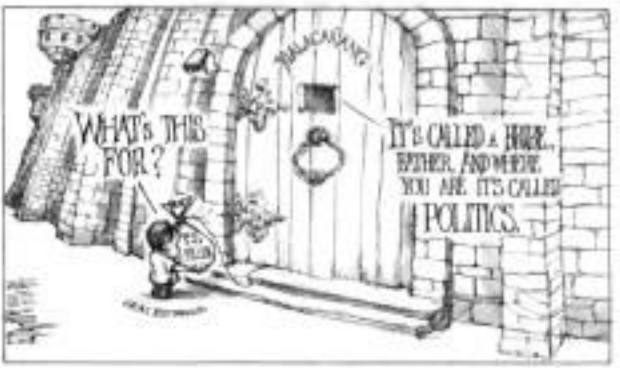

5 letters behind fight over Metro's waste

AS I SEE IT

Neal D. Cruz

THEY HAVE DEADLY CHANGED HEPHE, when a reelection Mayor Mandi's garbage rate is suddenly "extraordinary" becoming offended and citizens of their immediate considered to an insult. That is our property," they said, and they put up bike leaders to prevent garbage trucks from entering. Now these same people fight to have other people's garbage dumped into their territory, never mind the environmental damage.

What happened? Why the sudden change of heart?

The answer is one word with five letters: MONEY. What they say is true. There is money in garbage, lots of it. Millions of pesos for the contractors who haul the garbage, millions more for the government officials who determine who collects the garbage, and still more millions to those who occupy the garbage.

Do you know that the operator of the 14-ha landfill in Montalban (in metes and bounds a Philippine) pesos more than P800 million a year? And that the municipal government of Montalban owns P.00 million you in garbage fees whose amount half of boundaries one?

Only a few months ago, when the dispute of the environment put up to five garbage dump in San Mateo, Rizal, to relieve a garbage crisis in Metro Manila, there was hell to pay here in Cainta and town those of neighboring municipalities refuse garbage trucks into here. They opposed the dumping in their neighborhoods.

When the dump was filled up, there was another garbage crisis in Metro Manila and the difference local government units resorted to quick-fix measures. Others to dump the trash were left to the contractors, to each of their respective barangays. And we watch our districts in isolated circles and streams, streets low trash or outlaws the permanent of the country, etc. This is still going on.

It was Montalban Mayor Pedro Cataquiz who started the latest uproar forming some one seen a lot of excuse by hosting Metro Manila's trash. He then hired some guys to instruct residents to not open any bag. The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), which is responsible for disposing of the garbage, was happy with Cataquiz's decision but his own citizens in this doubted the wisdom of his decision.

Cataquiz hired a committee to develop the land. He said to operate it with the host's share of the host going to him. The MMDA paid them a fixed premium for every truckload of garbage dumped there. Considering the enormous amount of waste that Metro Manila produces, the dump earned almost P900 million (not to mention more than P400 million in the concession operator and P100 million to the Montalban government).

The economic side had brought. It brought the surrounding environment very much the intrusion of moving down here into barrio dumps and to middle gold miner when the only and landfill is filled up.

Montalban's mistake illustrated the enormous rate of Rizal provincial officials. The provincial government doesn't get its share of Montalban's garbage fees and its officials began to think that this is unfair. The provincial has its particular way to manage waste and therefore should get a share of the latter's income, and for Montalban to keep for itself all the income from the dump is not fair.

So when the controversy developed as soon as Mayor Cataquiz started the garbage operation, some alone, the governor and the barangay [illegible] liked it. As it not certain whose idea it was, the commission's is the provincial officials'.]

But the Cataquiz landfill is taking strong measures to fill up. As of this writing, it could no more accept more trash to go. The new dump cannot receive operate until the original is phased out. Meanwhile, all those dumping their bang paid for truckloads of garbage are dipping through the fingers of the provincial government. Seeing it all we may years and two months, less than a year to go for both of the mayor of Cainta, Cataquiz, Jr. Times II. The new dump has to start working for the provincial government while Pantio still has two and a half years to go.

So the Sangguniang Panlalawigan passed a resolution and the governor acted on order and issued the Cease-and-Desist Order opening the new (by convenience, let's call it the Nonesa) dump, and that's how and why the mayor against over Metro Manila's garbage started. They are fighting over they surely know, isn't that worthy cause?

Here's a warning to users of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Buy your LPG only from authorized dealers of the oil companies. A number of unscrupulous dealers have been found to be illegally refilling and underfilling LPG cylinders and putting them out in high stores.

The Council Appeals recently supported the decision of the Chief State Prosecutor's Office to indict some of the criminal owners against Unioil Gas Corp. for illegal purchase under Batas Pambansa 33. The Court of Appeals reversed the ruling of the Department of Justice (DOJ) withdrawing the charges against Unioil. It said the DOJ committed grave abuse of authority in ruling in favor of Unioil and exempted the authority of the Department of Energy (DOE) which oversees the LPG industry.

The charges against Unioil were filed after surveillance by the Industrial Bureau of Investigation (IBI) operatives of suspected illegal LPG dealers associated from Petron, Shell and Total.

The DOJ has intensified efforts to protect consumers from illegal practices. Recently, 6 raided dump LPG refilling plants owned by Northern Gas Corp., Capitol Allied Trading and Phoenix Gas Corp. Criminal charges have been filed against them. Violations included under-filling, substandard cylinders, no safety seals on the safety regulators, etc.

O Inday

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I READ WITH MUCH INTEREST ALFREDO Monzón's column about the lotta jokes Imelda Marcos is our Letters section. Monzón doesn't find the jokes funny and has begged friends in the Philippines to stop sending them to him, not to other people, particularly those living abroad. "The trouble is, our whole moral system and society as a whole did not reach to the degree of hubris" in Tacloban where I am working now," he said. "I am trying to live in other moral jobs... As a very young age, they are taught that everyone is important."

Before that, last week, I read as well the transcript of 2002 media Press Freedom Roundtable discussion. There was a lot to be said about the issues. "These jokes are reflective of the long-standing fear regarding our domestic workers... Essentially unusual and unnerving videos domestic workers are portrayed as cancer? are words that [encouragement and acceptable of our media] are like this."

Quite honestly, I don't focus videos there reactions are coming from. I myself have gotten the jokes in text messages and sent them to blogs, and are working otherwise in them. So these are the fear of [illegible] that is the moral who seems to be somewhat than her own, or is reduced by her troubles or are related from her own abuse cause which explains organization.

For example, asked why male listers she backtrayed, she reported: "A change in the teacher personality [or] is caused by [illegible] the [illegible] surroundings. The way the debate a scattered suggests that a somebody gone of what caused damage doing to [illegible]," again asked why Arroyo developed videos, she answers: "Although we suggested the summary response, summarizing conclusions in the are similar videos by reference."

I see nothing particularly offensive in them, but I see nothing exceptionally funny in them either. Frankly, I thought the jokes would die a natural death once there no limits to the development of social media [illegible] media. Must be that some gobshites or trolls the monopoly? But for some reason or another they seem to be more

Where did all that money come from?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

LAST THURSDAY, MALACAÑANG PALACE RE-scinded a backlog enough of taxpayers from whom 1.8% management and the government income tax was withheld in excess could be refunded from P200,000 to P500,000 each, for when purpose it is not clear.

The crisp peso bills newly handed to taxpayers perhaps were distributed to the beneficiaries on their secretaries in a single day via the after noon-session bid breakfast with President Macapagal-Arroyo, the women, with government and may be the only ones who could say they suffered the fatigue of Local Authorities of the Philippines (LAMP) and the third during a meeting in the morning "for those who failed to attend the break-fast." Interesting to see the organization. The venue for the distribution was variously reported as the Manila Hotel and Heroes Hall. Thus so much space was needed from and the size of the stampede for the money bills.

Heroes Hall is the place where the President hosts very important state functions, like last Thursday it was not an assemblage of heroes that remained to be their ministry. Heroes are not receive and we know they are either exempt by legal supposed or unannounced.

In the end of the day, roughly P120 million was delivered to four damaged hands, to non-another taxpayers, perhaps with the exception of those in the public treasury or private wealth. This makes it difficult for anyone to determine the gift-giving as inducement of public funds or to put those out of the public treasury. Nothing is clear about the purpose of the gift-giving. Except not those whether the cash was in exchange for something, although suspicion of the receiver was fueled by the circumstance that the meetings were held in the midst of the offers to push a new impeachment complaint, that was soon to be mortally floated, against the President, so that it would be bombarded in the House of Representatives. Everything was implied.

Certain facts have been established and are verifiable:

1. A free engagement and government have ad mitted to receiving money, but each gave differ ent reasons to justify it.

2. No documents were signed. Thus, there is no receiving gun. Government auditing rules are strict in requiring accounting for every increase of taxpayers' money disbursed.

3. The President was hardly visible, showing herself only on a gracious breakfast host and witnessing the cash-taking of the officers of the Hap.

4. It is the reasons given to reconcile seem ingly the gifts that would be an object of elected officials with a record of distribution of public relief money from public funds or private wealth.

5. Administration officials involved the secretary of the Hap.

Among those who attended accepting money from Gov Oyo Sep. Antonio Cayetano said he received P200,000 in cash but did not consider it as a bribe. He said it was a "most Christmas gift" to congressmen at the time of the filing of the impeachment complaint, without disclosing the President requested from another impeachment complaint for a year. Cayetano denied that P200,000 is "big money."

Other congressmen said the money came with a promise that they will have continuous of P75 million to P150 million would be released soon, another congressman said the money came from the budget of the House and from the funds of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Three of the 46 governors who attended the meeting admitted to receiving money. Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio showed up on TV the bundle of P200,000 he said he took the money, believing he could use it for community projects, and would return the money to the donor. Saying "it is not given as a bribe." The moment he took the money he good faith.

Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza said a Senate Ways and Means staff member handed him the paper bags containing the money. He said he got P1 lacs and for four communities based governors. Mendoza said the other one is Antonio Ed Pamilio.

Another governor, Emilio Mercado of Negros Oriental, said he received P200,000 and another stood it was intended for the Oct. 29 meeting of governors for the launch of the integrated tax collection system. It was handed to him by a staff member of the governors association.

Ilo Gov. Imee Marcos, Ung secretary general, said the Malacañang meeting actually discussed the new impeachment complaint and it was agreed that it will be filed next week.

Palace officials admit to the muddle over the source of the funds, and resolved their hands of the money handling of the Secretary. Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno passed the buck to Ung. They refused to say if the President knew it. "I don't know where the funds came from. That is the thing they like to turn hands."

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said the handouts have been in the works for some time. Before elections on Oct. 29. He said the President could not just give money to governments officials, because it is "illegal," and there is a ban on giving money to local officials in the elections spending during the 45-day poll period.

Andaya said the Department of Budget and Management did not release money that day Oct. 11. He said he was not in the Palace when the envelopes and bags were distributed. Asked whether private money was used, Andaya said, "I have no knowledge of that."

The source of the money remains an explosion. This demand cannot be ignored.

Not just the food we eat

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ALTHOUGH GENETICALLY MODIFIED (MGM) crops are the subject of much controversy, growing breakthrough is more than just about "Frankenfoods," as some activists have dubbed GMOs. Dealing with the building blocks of life, modern biotechnology is also about health and nutrition, and it is also about the issues of social sustainability, as well as environmental preservation.

An example is the work of Dr. Gene Hahn, research director of the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines, on the use of DNA markers in the papaya industry. "It all began in 1994 with a visit to the Supreme Court that said, essentially, that DNA analysis could not be used in court as evidence," Hahn explained in a briefing held at the Office of the President, during the Biotech administration, while Dr. Hahn, the said some colleagues helped set up the DNA Analysis Laboratory at the UP Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB). "The issue needed for years to 'set up a system to ensure the accuracy and integrity of our findings."

With the protocols in place, the court then wrote to the Supreme Court, asking the judiciary to accept DNA analysis as evidence in court. Since, in 2005, Dr. Hahn testified in a statutory rape case and, using the findings of their DNA analysis, managed to prove that the accused was not guilty. His testimony over, they helped free a man who had been wrongly jailed. (See helped free innocent people DNA analysis for use in court.

Dean Hahn, details with him from a game given by the World Bank, has established protocols for the handling of evidence to avoid court cases, particularly in cases of child abuse. Some 40 cases have since been assisted by the lab. Meantime, Dr. Hahn has been busy giving lectures to law enforcement agencies on the use of DNA technology, law enforcement officers on the proper handling of evidence. Thanks to our school, "CSI" is no longer just a TV show, but a reality in the Philippines.

* * *

20. Star Herbal-Recipe, president of BCP is involved in a different, but equally exciting field of biotechnology. His current field of research is explained in an article with the intriguing title

LOOKING BACK

Jonbeth R. Ocampo

IN THE WAY TO THE VENUE OF MY LECTURE in the Philippine Center in Rockville, Md. Patrick, I saw people preparing placards for a rally to be held at the so-called "media alley" against Philippine dictator in a recent episode of "Inquirer Interviews." While the television network ABC has aired an apology and offered to deliver the edited, big for offending it, the Philippine media and Ilocos were used to picket the Disney store simply because the Philippine government is a partner in the "Disney Philippines" project. Disney. We are probably screaming on the store because our world does that if the store of solidarity is around 24/7, then Filipinos around the country and world have to demonstrate.

Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos, who is also her Identity Purpose to bring the opposition down, perhaps there is hope for the future. I agree with those who believe that the energy exploited on "Empower Filmmakers" should have been focused on more pressing issues that confront Filipinos in America. The immigration issue, for example, or the recognition of Filipino veterans who fought during World War II. This is yet another example of how Filipino emotional energy is misused to preserve their cultural distinctiveness.

Back to the Disney issue. Last week, I met with the Commission of Filipino Overseas. I found presentations suggesting ways to bring together Filipinos closer to each other. I wondered if this was feasible or even possible, knowing that there are over 8,000 Filipino-American associations or organizations here and around the world. Indeed, Filipinos are like amoeba, they form groups that tend to split and multiply rather than gather as one. Fortunately, there is now the Internet, where some of Filipino-Americans

Anniversaries

IT TAKE BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE I BEGIN WRITING THIS column, the first one coming out in May 1997. At two columns a week, that adds up to more than a thousand over the decade, and every now and then I get puzzled and puzzled about compiling more two books, but there just isn't enough time for that.

I did think of reflecting on the 10 years of writing, but I didn't want to end up sounding like one of those self-important, self-absorbed blogs, so let me move on and write about two others—two anniversaries, just as I am, taking place in two countries that are worlds apart, each will worry of the other, their lengths in between the vast seas the rest of the world, including the Philippines, which somehow was touched by the several other anniversaries we note each.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

'West Side Story'

The first golden anniversary I wanted to cuddle was that of "West Side Story," which first went on Broadway on Sept. 26, 1957. I saw the movie version in a suspect and neighborhood theater, still in his 20s then, did the lyrics. "West Side Story" is a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," this time set in New York City's tough area side-area. Instead of two feuding families, the play looks at two gangs, the Jets, composed of Caucasian Americans, and the Sharks, which is Puerto Rican. As in "Romeo and Juliet," love blossoms between a man and a woman from the rival gangs, with a tragic ending.

National Public Radio, which is the American community's supposed radio system, has used the Broadway play premiere, including retrospective versions of the play and interviews with those involved in the 1957 production. Apparently, "West Side Story" is considered a breakthrough for many reasons. The lyrics and the choreography have been described as "cinematic," with quick-cuts now take for granted in modern theater, quick school, exciting times, moving fast-paced forms. For the play was set in the streets, the basements and landlord-less parking, the gangs were actually hard to sing, and the choreographic which tried to capture gang movements, including the rumbles, was gripping.

Yet today people still have in many songs, choreography where they came from. That happened with me but mostly with the lyrics. Don't know about others, but when I first did and I knew I'd found the songbirds. Suddenly the lyrics came around. "peace and quiet and run and air . . . was for us . . ." it was the song from "West Side Story's" dying scene.

Besides the production aspects, "West Side Story" was groundbreaking in many ways. It broke a convention in musical theater, and it sensitive one at that. The play touched on issues of racial discrimination, as well as problems around the rebellious "teenager." Be, the play had to comply with the standards of the times, like no man-wife in theater—as a whole plan on gang wars and without a single four-letter word.

The play was more sensational when, in 1961, when many came Filipinos still remember with hostile blood in the land was, Hollywood was still living in an age of stereotypes and they had all the Hindu gang members using their dramatic skills to portray the Puerto Rican characters.

What was the impact of "West Side Story" on Filipinos? The movie probably helped to push our love affair with Broadway plays. As time can pass our generations of Filipinos grow up exposed to, and enamored of Broadway a music play re-categorized as a serious cultural institution. There was always the hunt, the fanfare, the star-struck of modern theater. Broadway husband, and the some Filipinos, like Lea Salonga, it became a niche to conquer.

'Sputnik'

The other anniversary we're marking this year comes from America's symbolic No. 1 enemy, Russia. It was 40 the American Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or USSR and when they launched "Sputnik I," the first artificial satellite, on Oct. 4, 1957 (the week after "West Side Story" has Given think this was done on purpose). America was shocked. It was the Cold War and surely the communists couldn't be so advanced in technology. Sputnik I was a man, a satellite—the size of a beach ball per the American astronomer.

It didn't help that on Nov. 3, the Russians launched "Sputnik II," this time with a dog named Laika on board. The dragged flight didn't quite make it back to earth, as Laika was the world's first casualty in space.

The United States was home. There was probably panic-area at work here, knowing the enemy had something up there in space, peering down on earth. In December 1957, the American tried to launch their own satellite, but it was unsuccessful. The rocket-propelled vehicle, nothing a "flopnik." But research into our future was formally announced with "Explorer I" and in July 1958, the US Congress passed a law creating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The was a history alone who got to the moon first, although there are still conspiracy theories who claim that landing on the moon was a hoax, that it was a creation of American propaganda.

"Sputnik" effect on the world's imagination was so huge for years I can't remember if I was in grade school or high school when the Russians launched their rocket. "Sputnik," a magic word, was everywhere, even in many movies, and I grew up very amused the corner time on house. It was colorful, boasting about the USSR's achievements, and offering Russian language lessons. I was so thrilled with the Cyrillic alphabet.

I still have about "Sputnik I" and II in the magazine, and about Laika and learned out of my skepticism that space travel was "impossible." Many years later, while a student in the University of the Philippines,

Peta clarifies stance on Manila Zoo

LETTERS

ALLOW ME TO MAKE SOME corrections about Peta's review on the Manila Zoo. ("Natural Life debate: Should Manila Zoo be shut down?" Inquirer, 10/4/01)

Closing a zoo is a multi-step process. First of all, breeding program should be stopped. Secondly, the animals that could be reintroduced to the wild should be. Third, the majority of animals should be transferred to conservation centers that can live out their lives in environments that are closer to that of their natural habitat. (It would be very easy to find adequate sanctuaries for animals like lions that congregate and Mali (the elephant.)

When there is no more support system, the remaining animals for which there is no adequate sanctuary or those that cannot be reintroduced into the wild, should be allowed to live out the rest of their lives in the zoo or should be transferred to another facility.

Animals in zoos are restricted to a life of boredom, loneliness and obsessive-loading to self-mutilation and other abnormal and self-destructive behaviors called "zoochosis." Although animals can't speak a language that we understand, it doesn't mean they can't show how they feel. Like humans, animals have priorities, needs, preferences, emotions and thoughts that make each one an individual. The frustration and suffering of the animals at the Manila Zoo are easy to see and impossible to deny.

Look at Mali. Elephants are intelligent individuals that form their own societies, share collective responsibilities, develop wisdom as they age and express a range of emotions including joy and grief. In the wild, Mali would travel as a herd of 15-30 other elephants and wouldn't roam up to 40 kilometers a day, but in captivity, Mali spends her days alone in a barren enclosure, unable to exhibit any sort of natural behavior. It's simply unethical to treat Mali like this.

Look at how Asia lives alone in a barren mini-cage with no source of mental stimulation, she spends her days pacing back and forth. Orangutans are very intelligent, social animals. They spend time with their families and nurture their young. In the wild, they climb trees, sometimes 100 feet high in the air. At night, they make nests out of branches and leaves. Asia should be sent back to an orangutan sanctuary.

Few can also look at the figure who can never can. Expect zoos up to 400 square kilometers in the wild, the entire Manila Zoo measures only 6.6958 sq km); the birds who can never fly come on proudly tethered to perches; the turtles in enclosures packed so tightly they can barely move; the reptiles in glorified fish tanks, and a zebra confined alone to a muddy enclosure.

If the zoo cared about animals, it must never take animals from a good situation and put them in a bad one.

Many zoos around the world have stopped breeding programs, and are sending animals to facilities where they can be properly cared for. For more information go to PETA@AsiaPacific.com.

—JASON BAKER,
director,
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Asia-Pacific (PETA-Asia@PETAAsiaPacific.com)

Crushing, making deals with Reds

WHO WAS IT WHO SAID, "WE will crush the communist conspiracy in four years" and then went on to make deals with them? Was communism who rule Communist China, Russia? A solid thumbs-down counter, with ZTE, a company run by communists, signed last April. The cost of that contract would have been paid for by generations of Filipinos.

But contract was called off? Was it because it was illegal? Nothing. "Ka Bato Eh!" But the opposition says there are some 30 or more of such contracts entered in to by the "communist crushers" with Chinese communists.

What then is the real score? Shall we crush the communists? Or, do we have lots of crushing among Chinese communists because they gave us millions of dollars or billions of pesos in bribes?

Meanwhile, Filipinos—whether communist or not, continue to be killed because of this program to crush communism in the Philippines to no more that a communism exists. Shall we? If it does, then we are entering into common sense. Millions of dollars with construction?

—HERMILIA DEE,
ateliadee@yahoo.com

Why 'inday' for a household helper?

"INDAY ADEE SPEEDO, MGA tuta ako amuyad." (Inquirer, 10/15/01) I'm just wondering why the word today is used to refer to a household or domestic help. Inday is a Cebuano word whose equivalent in Tagalog is ate-ng, and in Ilocano is manang.

To our mates in adhering to a dominant help is degrading for Cebuanos because a household help is called inday. Inday is a Cebuano word which means today and today does not mean anything.

—JUDGE LOPEZ,
ateadiane@yahoo.com

No first-come, first-served at the Araneta Coliseum

I HAVE, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, GONE TO watch games at the Araneta Coliseum with tickets on Upper Box A or Upper Box B ticket. The tickets are unnumbered and sold on first-come, first-served basis.

For popular games (e.g., Ateneo-La Salle, La Salle-UST games)—even in those instances when I arrived an hour early for the game—I find it impossible to get seats seen side by side because you can only buy two of seats had been previously reserved by a single person for friends. And some, using personal belongings, had reserved seats for their friends, who get into the coliseum a few minutes before the game—in violation, of course, of the spirit of the first-come, first-served seating policy.

The embarrassment of seeing rules and regulations to the responsibility of the management of the Araneta Coliseum. Unfortunately, it has no one to enforce them. Despite this lack, the management has enough staff to check every bag for a package of chips purchased outside the coliseum—it's very effective way to ensure that the viewing public buys foodstuff only from its "authorized" sellers thus ensuring more revenues.

It seems that the management has overseen us for everything but would benefit the coliseum operators, but seem to protect the rights of the viewing public.

This concern should definitely be addressed in the spirit of synchronicity and justice. There should be absolutely no reservation of seats. Fans must make the sacrifice of letting parents themselves to choose their seats, and the Araneta Coliseum management should uphold the principle by assigning "tubo-ers."

—BERTITTA SILVA,
Quezon City

Consumer's choice: not for labor to dictate

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE NEWS ITEM: "FM guy sues food US firm's guards in 3 years, is blacklisted." (Inquirer, 9/28/97)

This article highlights a fundamental problem of the Philippine economy mindset. We don't seem to realize that jobs do not exist for the sake of the worker or a firm's owners's. Jobs only exist for the sake of the consumer.

The only just reason why we have jobs is because we provide a service demand by a consumer willing and able to pay for it at a mutually agreed price. If not, then we allowed to pay that person on the current rules (where our mind) forcibly without us asking him to do it. And regardless if he makes the wrinkliest cleanest or not.

But life is complicated. Those inside us cannot by poverty to put up with that one's demands. He therefore try to empower those so they would make demands on their employers (i.e., make the consumer pay for something he doesn't want). But is the consumer's time and responsibility for the maid's poverty? No. The Church will say he has a moral obligation. But moral obligations is unlike legal ones: a conscience reasons? God. If God is calling us to see you entered all sorts of sin and go to hell because He wants a sincere and non-coerced commitment from you, then no moral or ethically force you to fulfill your moral obligations.

The crucial point is workers end up dictating to consumers as to what the latter should get. Do I have to argue how perverse this is? Many argue a balance must be struck, but how can you make a balance for something without ethical basis? How do you balance forcing someone to pay for something that he can't responsible for and doesn't want? It may be noble to be charitable, but not when you are because there's a gun aimed at your head. This will only end in conflict.

Now the government tells Filipinos that they cannot take jobs from this firm, thereby forcing them the freedom and opportunity to make their own choice. Much like unions in our country, which donate to raise the cost of labor by limiting the supply. They willingly sacrifice the jobs of some members so that other members keep theirs. Is that ethical? And how many jobs businesses end up not being created because of this?

Life is complicated. That is why we need to tackle this problem intelligently. Not more knee-jerk policies. It only distracts us from making more jobs. Which is probably this administration's intention. (Remember the "no-jobs" time?)

—MARK REYES,
10 Bonifacio St.,
Araña Heights, Diliman, Quezon City

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Across the NATION

Floor wax donated to landless school

GUINOBATAN, ALBAY—"ADDING INSULT TO INJURY" was how a head teacher here described the local government unit's giving of floor wax and wood polisher for a school that has yet to be rebuilt after being ravaged by consecutive typhoons last year.

The Barangay Malpoo Elementary School here continues to conduct classes in three tattered tarpaulin tents and two cramped bunk rooms after the entire village was relocated late last year to the barangay Dayosia sports complex located in the same municipality.

Hazardzone

The Malpoo Village was declared a hazard zone after 178 houses there were battered by strong rains and buried in the landslides that were triggered by super typhoons "Milenyo" and "Reming."

The displaced school has since then been relying on supplies donated by the regional Department of Education (DepEd) and various non-government organizations.

But Head Teacher Haydé Cadag said some of the donations, such as the floor cleaning materials, end up hoarding dusted, considering the glaring absence of an actual school building.

She said the delay in construction was primarily due to the failure of local government units to secure a site for the school.

Frustrating

"What is frustrating about our situation is that we have already bidded P5.67 million for construction from the Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Efforts (Care) funds, but if no one is found fits to move, DepEd may give the budget to other schools who are also in need of it," she added.

The Malpoo Village was set to be given permanent housing this year in a 6-hectare site in Barangay Maruruec, for which construction is already underway.

However, Cadag was surprised to learn recently that the LGUs and the regional National Housing Authority had only designed the site for residential use and that no space had been allotted for the school.

Where's school?

"Where are we going to build our school now? We cannot stay where we are for much longer," Cadag said.

Guinobatan Mayor Joan Miro Guerra said that along with other members of the provincial council, he had already forwarded to the governor the school's request to be allocated at least 5,000 square meters of the Maruruec housing project.

"Only the provincial government has the authority to allocate land, so we're just waiting for an official response. But the last time I met with the governor, he assured me that they are already looking for a site. We are not going to leave the Malpoo community without a school," Cerda said.

Engineer Albert Peñeda, deputy area management officer for SDA-Bicol, confirmed that the school was not allocated space in the housing project for the Malpoo community, but said an additional 2.3 hectares are in Maruruec once being considered for the school's construction.

Suffer the children

"We are also constructing a housing project in Sitio Bangate in Barangay Quinago. We many also relocate the Malpoo schoolchildren," he said.

Neither Cerda nor Dayosia could specify when a construction site could actually be assigned to the school, but both said the search for a site was ongoing.

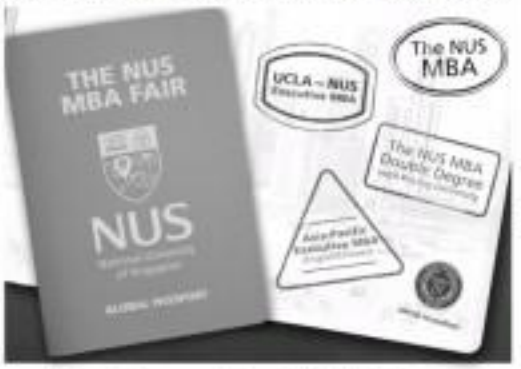
The 768 pupils were currently attending classes in tents at the Dayosia sports complex here proven insufficient to house the 192 Malpoo students.

"When it is rainy, we waste through ankle-high floods. When it is windy, sand gets blown into our eyes. In short, the best to safe the rest is unbearable. It is impossible for the children to study in these conditions," Cadag said.

She added that the student population had dwindled since January from 202 pupils to only 192 today, with the children falling ill and going absent, transferring to other schools, or dropping out altogether.

One of 145 elementary schools in the province of Albay, only the Malpoo Elementary School remains displaced, Cadag said. —Jeffrey T. Carell, Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUPILS rush to their tent schools in Guinobatan, Albay



Sorsogon cries SOS after flood, lahar onslaught

IRIGAY, SORSOGON, LOCAL OFFICIALS here appealed for help as hundreds of residents were evacuated to safer grounds following flash floods induced by heavy rains for the past two days.

Irosin Mayor Lilia Gonzales called on concerned national government agencies to look into the plight of the displaced residents.

More than a hundred families were transferred to evacuation centers in the villages of Gigmoto, Magsaysay, Bulog, Monbon and Bagacay after two rivers burst and lahar rushed down from the slopes of Bulusan Volcano past midnight Monday.

Councilor Telly Balocon, chair of the Social Services Committee of the municipal council, said some 52 houses were damaged by the lahar and mud onslaught in Barangay Monbon forcing the residents to seek safer areas.

Balocon said although no one was injured in the mud and lahar flow, a 28-year-old boy was electrocuted at the height of the evacuation.

She said residents volunteered to clear waterways and put up sandbags to divert the flow of the flood to its original path.

As of Tuesday morning, a large part of the village was still inaccessible to transportation.

Irosin Gov. Sally Lee, who rushed to the site, said the provincial government had already mobilized its heavy equipment to help in dredging the area and clear it of debris.

Lee said she would also confer with other government agencies to assess the situation and determine the best option.

Bobby Q. Lethotal, Inquirer Bicol

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY 1411Bldg., 1655 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Nationality	Position
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DELBOSTEL PHILS. INC. Unit 2G3 Ayenue Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Sung Il Jung Korean	Vice President
GEOMILLION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES CORP. 13 B Rotavilla St., Project 6, Quezon City	Xiuliang Hua aka James S.H. Hwa Chinese	President and Chief Executive Officer
EDUCATE INCORPORATED LSI 2C East Tower, PSEC Exchange Rd., Pasig City	Samuel Frederick Australian	IT Developer
ROSE LENDING INVESTOR CORP. 31 Vancouver St., Cubao, Quezon City	Chaose Singh Indian	Company Collector
ROSE LENDING INVESTOR CORP. 31 Vancouver St., Cubao, Quezon City	Gagandeep Singh Indian	Loan Officer
ROSE LENDING INVESTOR CORP. 31 Vancouver St., Cubao, Quezon City	Amar Singh Gill Indian	Company Collector
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yee Shawn Yoong Malaysian	Chinese language Quotation Service Officer
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OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ah Yuan Cheah Malaysian	Chinese language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Gee Sumendy Indonesian	Chinese language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ping Lin Yeoh Malaysian	Chinese language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Elendy Suryanto Indonesian	Chinese language Sports Trader
CASPO INCORPORATED 28/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Hsien Un Chinese	Operations Analyst
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hariyanto Indonesian	Chinese language Sports Trader
CASPO INCORPORATED 28/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Samr Teck Lee Singaporean	System Analyst
HAPPY ENGLISH TUTORIAL SERVICES Bk. 4 Lot 15, Isidro St., Holy Spirit, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City	Lucas Lee Korean	Manager
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CASPO INCORPORATED 28/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Chow Kok Low Malaysian	Accounts Officer
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EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 1 Malawi St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Shiheng Li Chinese	Engineer
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 1 Malawi St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Zhengqi Zhang Chinese	Assistant Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAMUNDO C. MORIANO
DOLE Regional Director

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Blancaynel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Perfumed all these years

KIDLAT Tahimik

By Frank Cimatu
Region Ory

THREE YEARS AGO, INTERnational art critic and curator Rosa Martinez heard about "Mababangong Bangungot (Perfumed Nightmare)" from a friend. Martinez, a Spaniard, searched this Kidlat Tahimik film and was stirred enough to include it in the Venice Biennale in 2005.

Tahimik was grouped in the "Always a Little Further" among the Outsider Impressionist artists who refused to be conventional and always pushed their art further. He was with the Guerrilla Girls, Joana Hadjithomas, Khalil Joreige, Rhet Nones, Guido of Minotaur, Santiago Sierra and Oleg Kulik.

Martinez is known to act similar for rediscovering hidden geniuses and her inclination of Tahimik is inspired, even if he is almost unknown in the Philippines.

"Mababangong Bangungot" is 20 years old, but the nightmarish aroma is still pungent after all these years. Tahimik also celebrated his 65th year earlier 3.

"Mikki Antonio in Kabul ako (Most of them have died)," Tahimik said of his main characters, all residents of his mother's hometown in Laguna.

"Ang mga bata mulabas na ang mga anak (The children featured in the film now have children of their own)," he said.

"Mababangong Bangungot" is unheard of, except for Baguio residents and cinemaes. This is tragic because the film opened the floodgates for the country's independent film industry, which is having a renaissance of sorts.

'Conceptual artist'

Film critic Bahasil Tolentino, in his recent essay on indie films, described Tahimik as a "conceptual artist" and cited him and Nick Deocampo as the ones who introduced alternative Philippine filmmaking to the world's art festival market.

Tahimik made "Mababangong Bangungot" with no working script and a budget that cost $10,000 or P450,000. He resigned from his consultancy job in Paris and spent two and a half years editing the film.

His guerrilla type of filming and editing gave the movie a quirky, primitive film style that astounded film critics.

The film is a story of a puppet driver (played by Tahimik), who was president of the Werner von Braun Club. One French is a German scientist who developed the rocket technology) and who sought out his hero and became disillusioned with American colonialism. When he resigned as club president, the movie took on an absurd turn.

The film won the International Critics Award at the Berlin Film Festival in 1977. When American director Francis Ford Coppola directed "Apocalypse Now" in the Philippines in the late 1970s, he got hold of Tahimik's movie.

"I stumbled across this Filipino film where crazy dreams matter to in the colonialisms of the American Dream. I felt Americans had to see one of my favorite independent films—for its own Hollywood strengths," said Coppola, who distributed "Mababangong Bangungot" through his Zoetrope Films.

Coppola's account was quoted by Karen de Vera, Tahimik's wife, in her 2005 book, "Kapwa: The Self in the Other."

Village Voice, an influential New York newspaper, chose "Mababangong Bangungot" as one of the 10 best films in 1998. Two years later, the paper awarded the same honor to another Tahimik film, "Sa sarita."

Nobel Prize winner Kenzaburo Oe called Tahimik "a son of Kurosawa of the Philippines" for opening (sarcasm) into the Filipino soul.

As how much did the film gross?

"$10,000 (P500,000)," said Tahimik, chuckling.

So was not a Marxist although he joined Baguio's version of the Edsa Revolt at the Baguio Cathedral in 1986 and had been vocal against the ouster capital's (ever-dive) regimes.

Debate

But the debate on the impact of "Mababangong Bangungot" rages among Manila film critics.

American critic Frodon Jeanmon included the film as an example of his "geopolitical aesthetic" for its resistance to Hollywood illusions and production.

Tolentino and writer Epifanio San Juan Jr. said the anti-Marxist theme was ignored.

San Juan said Tahimik's choice for the patron saint in the movie was lollipop. Saint Mark was "San Marcos" at the time of Marcos' Cold-time ships.

"The cultural regime of rituals on the screen can be paralleled to the political culture of the (Ferdinand) Marcos dictatorship," San Juan said.

It is interesting that the film still stirs much debate despite the fact that it has to be transferred into a popular DVD format.

But then Tahimik's spirit lives on among indie film producers. That is why he still gives a "Bamboo Camera Award" in the Cinemalaya entries.

Younger makers and more notable filmmakers like Auraeus Solito, Lav Diaz and Angel Shaw consider Tahimik their biggest influence. That some of Tahimik pulling his puppets still brings a rush akin to a perfumed bangungot.

In loving memory of

Dr. Natividad Relucio Clavano, MD

Wife, mother, friend

Baclaran Hospital administrator breastfeeding advocate
whose work helped spark off a global rejuvenation of breastfeeding

"We achieved the competence to match the love of our babies, not because we did not care, but because we did not realize the consequences of practicing such a privilege. How to change all that? How to break the 'friendly' stranglehold that we had cultivated the milk companies to have on our hospitals?

I closed the doors of the nursery to the milk companies . . . Everything that was conducive to bottle feeding was removed not only from the nursery, but from wherever else in the hospital. I myself rejected samples and donations from the milk companies. How else could we be credible?"

Dr. Natividad Clavano, 1932-2007

Dr. Natividad Relucio Clavano was Chief of Paediatrics, Baguio General Hospital, Philippines who provided research which demonstrated the damaging impact that western medical practices can have on breastfeeding and child survival. Her work continues to save millions of lives across the globe.

Natividad was born in Manila on 1st October 1932. Seventeen years after graduating in medicine from the University of Santo Tomas, she left work in domestic turn within she came to London for post-graduate studies in Paediatrics at the Institute of Child Health, London University. Prof. David Morley opened her eyes to urgent problems facing the underprivileged in her country. So that local babies were routinely separated from their mothers at birth and placed in a nursery and fed on tins fed—with supplies liquids provided by the milk companies. But protests about the practices causing this particular "commercialization maternal child" had not begun.

Natividad returned home armed with practical information about how to change hospital practices and attitudes. She developed the ideal to reform medical and nursing staff — many had not seen baby breastfed babies and received normal breastfeed-ended for themselves. Most importantly she disseminated the results of her research. Her 10,000-baby study of infants born in Baguio General Hospital in 1972 and 1977 formed Nestlé used to suspected abusive that nursing in hospital by mothers and babies together and declined breastfeeding rates that leading to a rigid immediate increased breastfeeding rates from 46% to 80% and reduced the rates of diarrhoea by 50% and mortality 90%.

She spoke in Washington at the US Senate Inquiry in 1978 called Senator Ted Kennedy, who publicly denounced that the World Health Organization (WHO) on something akin of the aggressive marketing of infant formula. In 1981, the World Health Assembly adopted the International Code on the Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and began making governments implement it. In 1992 President Corazon Aquino signed into law the Philippine National Milk Code — at the time one of the toughest laws in Asia.

Natividad's own career in the profession of Mrs. Brazil, then WHO/IPC Executive Director, who initiated and helped set up the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative and its Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, which has been transforming hospital practices in 156 countries. In 1998, she received the Order of the Golden Heart from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her pioneering work in pediatrics and infant feeding and for her Golden Rice China National Programme.

Natividad spoke in defence of new rules for the Milk Code at the Philippine Senate inquiry in 2005. A decision by the Supreme Court was announced on 8 October 2007 and many, but not all, of the controls on marketing that Clavano fought for were approved.

The level of commercial promotion of human feeding is high and it will be up to such things around and our infant health before the needs of industry are still need more health workers with the formula and courage that Natividad showed.

From an obituary by Penn Rundall, CBE Policy Director, Baby Milk Action/Interactional Baby Food Action Network, United Kingdom

Dr. Nicholas Alipui, Country Representative, UNICEF Philippines
We remember you for your beauty, your warm friendship, your deep intelligence and, above all, how full you have lived life, passion and vision, and how in life you have always put the rights and welfare of others above your own comfort. You had that simple way of giving yourself completely for the happiness of others. And in your search for truth a few values and caring children. You gained international recognition and worldwide praise for your breastfeeding promotion work.

You have been a worldwide voice for breastfeeding and a tireless defender of the right to food security for infants and young children.

Jaime Fernandez, Executive Director, Ateneans and countryman, Save Babies Coalition, Philippines
We will miss our breastfeeding doctor warrior who fearlessly battled against such companies mothers combating their country's baby feeding crimes. We talked openly about how 'bottle' is a nursing is unprovoked to further her to exchange for dropping her remarkable study.

She was one of the few brave women doctors who, despite her lingering illness, gave breastfeeding trainings, seminars and speaker especially her visit to remote interviews, she shared to all the public about milk companies advertising lies, she is one of few decisive methods of the antibacterial plants.

IBFAT Canada,
Our national director, Elizabeth Nielsen, had met Clavano, who will be long remembered as the Philippines and around the world for saving the lives of many, many children. She not only saved the lives of many infants, but also contributed thousands of others to work towards the protection of infant health.

Prof. David Morley, MD, OBE of University College London Institute of Child Health
She had given love and was a wonderful person and was became she came from the more wealthy in Philippine society but appreciated the needs of the poor and underprivileged.

Anwar Fazal, Chairperson Emeritus of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) and recipient of the Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Peace Prize), Malaysia
Dr. Natividad's house, the city women moved mountains. To those who said it could not be done I can hear her saying, 'You can, if only you all those of us who are already doing it.' In the Baguio Hospital in the Philippines, she gave us a shining model that inspired new generations of activists and health care personals. Her compassion and her courage were legendary.

Fiona Virginia Thorley, OAM, PhD, DECG, Member, WABA International Advisory Council Lactation Consultant (original cohort of 1985), Cultural Historian of the History of Midwives' Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
I used my contributions to all on the Philippines who worked with Dr Clavano in her campaigns to support the health of mothers and babies and defeat the attacks of breastfeeding. I hope for example will inspire others to take up the torch.

From Dr. Marina Ferreira Rea, Senior Researcher, Institute of Health of Sao Paulo, Brazil.
I met MRDr Clavano last time I was there in 1986 and could see how the national authorities supported her. We was for year in Brazil - visit she was in peace.

gifts in memory making a difference!

unicef

TAHIMIK Blood "Mababangong Bangungot" on a shoestring budget.

Requests for share of Palace cash swamp gov

Youth council bets adopt move to court religious bloc

CABANATUAN CITY—THE PANICle of courting the endorsement of the Iglesia ni Cristo, a religious organization known to practice bloc voting, is not the exclusive domain of candidates for national and local government positions.

In the run up to the Oct. 29 synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections, some candidates for SK positions have started seeking the endorsement of local INC ministers to push their candidacies.

Early start

A candidate for SK chair in a northern Nueva Ecija city said she went to the office of the local INC minister to seek his help in her candidacy.

She said her father, who knows the minister, accompanied her and together they asked for an endorsement of her candidacy to the young members of the group.

The minister, she said, was non-committal and said he would study her request.

The candidate, a senior high school student who declined to be identified to avoid accusations of early campaigning, said she learned the effect of candidates in their village, both for the SK and barangay council elections, have already approached the minister to seek his endorsement.

Influence

"I was told that the members of INC deliver solid votes. That was the reason why we approached the minister. His endorsement will be a big help for me since there are many members of his group in our village," the candidate said.

In Subic, the police have tightened security preparations for the barangay and SK elections in at least 159 villages where communist rebels are known to be operating.

Senior Supt. Dominador Aquino Jr., Subic police director, said he has ordered an intensified monitoring of these villages to stop any violent incident in the run up to the elections.

"We have to work on this matter because the police have been Lone of their primary forces against communist rebels," he said.

Aquino said the villages they are watching are in the towns of Bruno Galicia, Rebagay, Jones, San Marcelino and San Agustin.

Aurelio Rogue, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

OPENING! Workers at the Tsuneishi Heavy Industries Inc. shipyard in Cebu take roofing problem at unconfirmed part of a ship that they're building as per a former view of the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the shipyard. The shipyard has already produced two ships for a German trade company

By Arlyn de la Cruz

IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL TO SEE many people lining up in the different offices of the Bulacan Provincial Capitol especially on a Monday, which is also a payout day where most of the elected board members are present. But last Monday, Oct. 15, was extraordinary, according to Bulacan board member Romeo Dumdum.

That day the visitors came early, and almost all of them were barangay captains coming from the more than 500 barangays of one of the most populated provinces in the country.

Heard news

"The barangay captains were there because of what they heard from the news that Malacañang allegedly gave cash to governors," Dumdum told the Inquirer. "Everyone was hoping that they, too, would receive some cash."

A provincial newspaper also observed that many of the barangay captains were seen carrying a copy of the Sunday edition where the banner headline was the controversial revelation of Senate President Franklin Drilon that he received half a million pesos as setup P1,000-bills inside a brown bag after attending a meeting in Malacañang on Oct. 11.

Later that day, Bulacan Gov. Josefa G. Teodoro Mendoza would support the disbursal of Drilon, admitting that he too received P500,000-cash from an unidentified woman in Malacañang.

Captains' cues

"Even before the governor spoke, the barangay captains were already there. It's their custom to ask for help from Capitol officials whom they have helped," Pontelio said, interpreting the presence of the barangay captains at the provincial capitol.

While Pontelio agreed that there were ethical and moral questions involved in the act of giving money to barangay leaders, he was quick to add that "the governor is not the only one who has access to the pork barrel. Other officials also do."

Some barangay captains could be very blunt in demanding for financial assistance from their governors and Pontelio said he was certain that was also true for other provinces.

The Bulacan board member also said the fact that the political debut was just last May, it was even easier for barangay leaders to demand than their local leaders help funds in their respective campaigns for the barangay elections on Oct. 29.

Justification

Cardet Gov. Imelda "Ayong" Mobilla said he did not receive any cash from any Malacañang official after attending last Thursday's meeting, but said he would accept it and would not hesitate to use it for projects for the barangay, which, he said, have a lot of needs.

"All the local leaders would be approached by barangay officials, whether alike or not, since they have no one else to go to. So, it is impossible for us not to take care of those since they are the ones we depend on to help us not only during elections, but also when the local official is already installed."

Some barangay leaders would even look for those governors outside of the capitol building just to seek help. Mobilla said, adding that was was how it is in local politics.

He said he would not look at the money as a bribe. Instead, he did not hear anything and secondly, he did not receive anything as he left early that it there was, he would look at it as help from the president. However, he said he would ask what the money was for and not just accept it.

'Even before the governor spoke, the barangay captains were already there ...'

Pin take

But at the Malacañang presidential capital, while the story on the cash donations from Malacañang was considered as a baseless rumor, a number of laughter and light moments among local officials, it also led to serious questions as to the extent of politics in the country.

A lawyer by profession, Pontelio said, aside from moral and ethical issues, it is also against the law to give money during election period. "Magsalot nga bawal diron sobrang nagbabawal" (It is prohibited).

Pontelio added that what he observed was that sudden part of the controversy was that the act of handing out money, with or without any explicit condition, came from the symbol of the highest power in the land—Malacañang. "Kung gayon ang ginagawa ng mga taga Malacañang as mga *kabal na* *ayuso* na lang na *salapi*, *hindi ko pa nang may mali na* *ginagawa ng mga ito*" (I don't think he or any aligned organization saying much? Ang *salapi* ng mga Presidente?" [If that is what the Malacañang officials view local officials, is there something wrong with our values today? Isn't this what we have to review—Filipino values?)

Measles cases alarm ARMM health execs

ISABEL AGUNE, MAGUINDANAO—A health official has expressed alarm over the sudden rise in the number of measles cases this year in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) amid the national government's drive to aid the country of the viral disease common to children 14 years old and below.

From a total of 47 recorded cases last year (January-September), it has ballooned to 2,068 in the same period this year, with Sulu and Basilan provinces providing the most serious cases for eleven and ARMM Health secretary Dr. Tohir Sahali, whose concern is to be able to immunize 69,482 children in the region this year.

ARMM considered the poorest region in the country with the lowest literacy rate, has been the focus of foreign assistance due to its inadequate funding support from the national government.

"The limited funding is not only true here but also to other regions of the country since the bulk of our national budget goes to debt servicing," said Sahali.

Health needs

He urged health workers to prioritize the health needs of the 3.3 million inhabitants and maintain over all availability resources to be able to meet its target.

The lack of resources, according to Sahali, is complemented by the help from the World Health Organization, United, DOH and the local government units.

During its launching of "Sportsfest Tigbao" here on Monday, ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan had shelled out P500,000 for the project.

Ampatuan commended Magsaludsaan health workers, led by Dr. Elizabeth Sarcuno, for having only two measles cases this year compared to 70 in 2000.

"What really was alarming was the 2007 Basilan measles record of 126 cases compared to nothing last year," Sahali said.

He also expressed concern over Sarcuno's latest health findings that this province is endemic to filariasis, a mosquito-borne illness. *Oliver C. Aybara, Inquirer Mindanao bureau*

Trips paid for by Taiwan firm put execs in trouble

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS filed criminal and administrative charges against Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Jr. and Mandurriao City Mayor Jerry Treñas for allegedly going on a trip to Taiwan sponsored by a company proposing to put up a coal-fired power plant in the city a few days after they filed a similar complaint against Bataan Governor Tanjo.

Lawyer Bonnie Gerochi filed the case against Mabilog before the regional office of the Office of the Ombudsman on Monday on behalf of the Responsible Beggars for Renewed Energy (Bare).

Unethical conduct

In his complaint, Gerochi accused Mabilog of violating Republic Act 6713, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, for going on an all-expense paid trip to Taiwan on Oct. 12-14, along with seven city councilors.

Global Business Power Corp. (GBPC)-Fuerza Pesaro Corp. (FPC) and its technical partner, Taiwan-based Formosa Heavy Industries (FHIC), shouldered the costs of the trip to Taiwan.

The GBPC-FPC, the same power supplier of the city, has proposed to build a 300-megawatt coal plant at the FPC plant site in Barangay Ingore in La Paz District, Iloilo City.

Coal proponent

Tenbus also went on a similar trip to Taiwan on Sept. 28-30, also sponsored by GBPC-FPC and FHIC.

Gerochi said he would take file a complaint against the seven city councilors after he has secured proof they submitted that the coal plants project proponents sponsored their trip.

Tenbus and Mabilog earlier publicly stated that the coal plant proponents sponsored their trips.

Admission

Mabilog said, in an earlier interview with the Inquirer, that they were not violating any law by packing through with their trip.

He pointed out that Local Government Undersecretary Austere Panadero approved their "study tour" just like the Department of Interior and Local Government did in the city of Tenbus.

Mabilog also said they did not violate RA 6713 because the coal plant project did not need the city government's approval.

ONE of the most heavy coal power plants in the country, Calaca, continues to produce electricity for the Luzon grid using coal technology that was tagged as dirty.

GMA admin won't change, says Speaker's son

By Jaromi Aning

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA JR. believes that corruption will continue in the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo because she has become inured to it, according to his son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III.

"In the words of my father, the President is 'inside to corruption,'" the younger De Venecia said yesterday at a forum at the University of the Philippines in Diliman City.

He himself expected that graft in the public sector would persist in the next three years. "I believe and I'm optimistic that the President and her gang won't change," he said.

Asked about the Speaker's alleged bribery of lawmakers and governors, the younger De Venecia said that despite all the cover-ups and media spins, "a bribe is a bribe is a bribe."

"They think we're so dumb that we don't know what they're doing. They think we all say we are fools and that we will keep our silence forever. But they're wrong," he said.

It was he who disclosed that Ilocos Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. offered him P50 million in December 2006 as his company bested withdrew its unsolicited proposal to undertake the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

Joey de Venecia claimed that Abalos brokered the $329 million deal from which he got a cut.

The businessman also led to the resignation of Abalos, a sparkle between senators and Malacañang over executive privilege, a commissioner of the government's contract awarding process, and a new impeachment case filed against Ms Arroyo.

No longer 'my President'

Asked at the forum why he was no longer referring to Ms Arroyo as "my President," Joey de Venecia said: "I have lost my respect for her. She has allowed Cabinet officials [who attended the recent Senate hearing on the ZTE] who were her alter egos to perjure themselves for five hours. So from there on, I lost my respect."

During the first Senate hearing on the ZTE deal last month, De Venecia repeatedly referred to Ms Arroyo as "my President" because, according to him, he installed her.

De Venecia said Ms Arroyo may be cited for contempt of public trust that was left after the public about Abalos' offer of bribe to him.

The businessman, however, said while he was disenchanted with Ms Arroyo, he was not calling for her to step down.

He recalled instances of people calling in vain for her resignation.

"We have to keep fighting and making people aware of what is going on," he said, adding that he would continue his "advocacy" against corruption.

DE VENECIA III

CBCP tells execs: Admit Palace gift

From page A1

was a rush gift or a bribe.

"From a moral standpoint, one should not accept money about which questions can be asked because it renders us—somebody's accountability and transparency a dubious subject matter," Lagdameo said in a statement.

Quoting Pope Clement XI's "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church," he said these should "not be a call for accountability because they had been accepted particularly because they had been accepted particularly because there had been an 'unscrupulous use of money.'"

"With this sort of thing happening, our country is suffering not only from economic hardships but also moral hardships, disappointingly being shown by our leaders," Lagdameo said.

Perhaps unaware that the CBCP had issued a call to local government officials to come clean, the Makati Business Club's alliance Pamalakaya urged the influential organization to "convene all the governors and mayors to come out in the open and tell all about Mabuhay's 'gift.'"

Pamalakaya said it was "the moral obligation of the Church to ferret out the truth."

The only incentive

But while Bataan and Bukidnon Gov. Enrique Garcia and Mrs. Ilocos had earlier admitted receiving P500,000 each from the Palace, there were only denials yesterday from other governors.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado—otherwise available for interviews but unusually silent over the weekend—finally spoke up yesterday and denied that money changed hands during Ms Arroyo's meeting with local officials.

He said "the only incentive" he brought home from the meeting was Ms Arroyo's assurance of Administrative Order 103 (AO 103) or other government efforts to follow Bohol's experience in fighting the insurgency problem and promoting peace.

Aumentado said that during the meeting, he delivered a rudimentary address and information packet on the peace efforts of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULap), the umbrella organization of governors, mayors and other local officials.

Didn't get any, but...

There was also no money for Cavite Gov. Ernesto "Boying" Mathias, who said he had learned of the purported largesse only from the Inquirer report on Pandilan's admission.

"I was not there at the meeting but I didn't stay long as I had another appointment in Makati. I really know nothing about it. I didn't receive money," Mathias told the Inquirer by phone on Monday.

But he said members governors whom he claimed to name, had admitted in him that certain local officials were given money.

He quoted the governor as saying that the money was included for the coming barangay elections and had nothing to do with the latest impeachment raise filed against Ms Arroyo.

Mathias said that when he learned about Pandilan's admission, he immediately phoned Rizal Gov. Casimiro "Ynares III but could not reach the latter.

He said he and Ynares were united side by side during the meeting.

If there called up a friend who is also a governor. He's bored and he received money from Malacañang but it was not meant to persuade the governors to denounce the impeachment. Rather, it was meant to help candidates in the barangay elections," he said.

Mathias said the money could have come from the coffers of the ruling parties and that there was nothing illegal in distributing funds to support party-mates during an election period.

Asked if he would accept money if it were offered, the third-term governor said: "Yes, of course. It will be a big help to the candidates for barangay posts. Many of them approach me for help.

"I cannot say help alone who helped me when I ran for governor in the past elections."

Harvest Ed

Zamboanga Leyte Gov. Damian Mercado also denied having received money. Pandilan said.

"What an honor governor,"

Mercado said of Pandilan, adding:

"If [he] thinks the money is not good, he should have returned it to Malacañang."

Batanes Gov. Florjelina Bueser said she was in Malacañang on Oct. 11 but did not get anything.

Ilocos Gov. Orlando Fua Jr. said neither he nor his father, Ilocos Rep. Orlando Fua, received money.

But Governor Fua said that, with the permission of Pandilan and Mendoza, he would demand to know why he was not given any money when Ilocanos needed more assistance than the other provinces.

He said he would raise the issue with the president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines during their meeting on Oct. 20 in Dumaguete City, where Ms Arroyo is also scheduled to attend the launching of the Integrated Tax E-Net collection system.

Audience 'lang'

Baguio Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said he was one of four mayors who attended the Oct. 11 meeting. He said he was not approached by any Palace official bearing money, nor did he detect anything amiss.

Bautista, a member of Ms Arroyo's party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), said it was a Cabinet meeting called by the Palace to discuss Regional Development Council issues.

"The congressmen are the ones summoned to these boss-gen (Interior) Ronaldo Puno's audience lang so meeting [We were there simply as the audience]," he said.

Bautista expressed surprise at Pandilan's admission.

"We were there [at the Palace] after breakfast," he told the Inquirer, adding that it would not have been "appropriate" if money were distributed.

Admissions

Among the 180 lawmakers who met with the President for breakfast on Oct. 11, Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco has admitted on record that he received money. He said it was a "Christmas gift."

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, coordinator of the ruling Lakas-CMD in the Cordillera, has also acknowledged receiving money, but said the amount was an incentive allowance that congressmen normally receive at the end of a performance year.

Domogan has not responded to repeated requests from the Inquirer for an interview on the issue.

According to a former Cabinet official, the governors asked not to be named because he did not want to be involved in the controversy. congressmen allow receive extensive bonuses before Christmas.

But "the Oct. 20 barangay elections may put this practice under scrutiny," he said, adding:

"Technically, congressmen are not supposed to influence the nonpartisan political exercise, but to realpolitik, they support their own people, especially since presidential elections require allies in the grassroots."

In a rush to leave

All three Bohol representatives—Edgar Chatto, Roberto Cajes and Adam Relson Jala—said they did not stay long at the Palace on Oct. 11 because they had to reach a flight back to the province.

"I will do it possible if (I receive) money," Cajes said.

Chatto said Ms Arroyo arrived late for the breakfast meeting, so he did not wait for it to be concluded.

He said he and his two colleagues made sure they would be in Bohol in time for Ms Arroyo's visit the next day, "hence the urgency to leave ahead of the breakfast."

The President inaugurated the controversial P2.6-billion Bayugan Dam in San Miguel town in Friday morning. Reports from Beverly T. Hatchel in Manila; Eduardo Sonsona in Davao; Dahlia Loyola in Cebu; Cynthia Villaviray-Gabriel and Beatrice Cabana, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Rosario Oreja and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon; Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Ed Dagohoy, Mindanao Bureau; and Joel Armasa, Inquirer Visayas

Still no statement from GMA herself

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Eddie Pandilio and several other officials that they received anywhere between P500,000 and P600,000 in crisp bills while hearing Malacañang on Thursday after meetings with Ms Arroyo.

Ms Arroyo's office has one of the lowest budgets in the bureaucracy but Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. yesterday dismissed suggestions that the money kept under the Office of the President (OP).

President's funds

The OP budget for 2007 amounted to about P1.9 billion, according to Andaya.

It is broken down into: P1.1 billion for personnel services, P1.1 billion for maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), and P235 million for capital outlay. Unobligated cash figures, saved from unused allotments for personnel services, is P1.796 billion.

It is from MOOE that Ms Arroyo can draw her confidential and intelligence funds. These funds, amounting to P650 million this year, and other discretionary funds can go through usual auditing procedures.

Ms Arroyo has more. Previous national budgets gave her about P1 billion for Calamity Fund and P1 billion for Contingent Fund.

She also has a P1.2-billion Pagcor (Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.) Social Fund, a P500-million Pagcor landlords fund, a P3-billion PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office) and lotto fund.

All the above are funds not funds disbursed "upon approval of the President," according to the 2007 national budget.

Discretionary in nature

Those funds are treated by Congress as discretionary in nature since the President has discretion as to the amounts to be parceled out to the beneficiaries or recipients of the funds.

On top of these discretionary funds, Ms Arroyo has a say in disbursing funds for public works and revenues from road users' tax, among others.

Andaya said it was unnecessary that the funds purportedly handed out to congressmen and governors on Thursday did not come from the presidential funds.

He said it was impossible to account for the supposed funds...almost P24 million for 46 governors and P95 million for 190 congressmen, assuming they each received P500,000. If anything at all—from the MOOE alone.

'She won't do that'

"OP budget is earmarked for that purpose," Andaya said, stressing a large portion of the budget had already been disbursed since January.

"Impossible, and I don't think she will do that. How do you do that?" he said. "I don't think she (President) knows well in that. I don't think she can."

He said some of the lump sum funds were "realigned" to the OP and that he needed clearance from the President before it is re-disbursed.

Asked about Ms Arroyo's Social Fund, Andaya said: "Possibly you should ask counsels on pol ang chin-handle. But I am not saying it came from there."

He said there were "guidelines" on how to utilize the Social Fund "so it's not easy to divine from it."

Andaya said Pagcor disbursements did not pass through the Department of Budget and Management.

Contingent Fund

"I would assume they have their own accounting system. I'm not saying that the cash came from there. What I'm saying is Pagcor money doesn't passthrough us," he said.

Neither could Ms Arroyo answer Mendoza said of Pandilio, adding:

"If [he] thinks the money is not good, he should have returned it to Malacañang."

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Admissions

Among the 180 lawmakers who met with the President for breakfast on Oct. 11, Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco has admitted on record that he received money. He said it was a "Christmas gift."

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, coordinator of the ruling Lakas-CMD in the Cordillera, has also acknowledged receiving money, but said the amount was an incentive allowance that congressmen normally receive at the end of a performance year.

Domogan has not responded to repeated requests from the Inquirer for an interview on the issue.

According to a former Cabinet official, the governors asked not to be named because he did not want to be involved in the controversy. congressmen allow receive extensive bonuses before Christmas.

But "the Oct. 20 barangay elections may put this practice under scrutiny," he said, adding:

"Technically, congressmen

Panlilio sends letter to Malacañang

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

PAMPANGA, HON. EDDIE Panlilio yesterday wrote the Office of the President indicating his readiness to turn over the cash about the source of the P500,000 given to him in Malacañang on Thursday.

The letter was delivered by messenger to presidential spokesperson and legal officer Ilocos Elma Velez.

Panlilio said that his lawyer asked for the name of the person, or office to whom the provincial government could withdraw the contingency receipt for the money that had been given to him.

Panlilio also asked for the source of the money whether it came from the President's Social Fund, or from her calamity or contingency fund.

Panlilio said he had not received a call from Ms Arroyo since he revealed that he had been given money while attending a meeting at the Palace on Thursday.

He said he was unsure how to use the money in the belief that he would use it for community projects and that he would return it if it was intended to be a "bribe."

Palawan Gov. Amilbo "Joyjoy" Biendicho, who also received money at the Palace gathering, earlier said he had turned over the amount to Board Member Corinthia Santos, the president of the Liga ng mga Barangay in Palawan.

Yesterday, Mendoza said he had asked Santos to return the money to his custody.

He said he would keep the money and wait for the reply of Malacañang to Panlilio's letter as he would be guided on how to use it.

From page A1

have to answer to the people," Andaya said.

He added "pabaon" (send-off gift or allowances) of lawmakers as they go back to their constituencies, the answer said.

"It's been the tradition, the practice," the source said, stressing the money was then distributed by the districts to fund pet projects.

Bumpo denial

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye insisted that Palace had no hand in the distributing of the money.

"We take the word of the League of Governors, of the Philippines, the League of Cities of the Philippines and League of Municipalities of the Philippines that none of the local chief executives who attended the said meeting requested by Ulap received any government funds," Bunye said.

Apparently referring to Pandilio and Bataan Gov. Enrique "Boy-jet" Garcia who said they got P500,000 each, Bunye said: "Regarding officials saying they received funds, we cannot comment since we have no firsthand knowledge of such allegations."

On Monday, Pena said that Ulap—an umbrella organization of local officials that governors down to barangay officials—should be explaining as to where the money came from.

In Pangasinan, Ulap's president, Binalonan Mayor Ramon Guico, said in Filipino during a radio interview: "There's no way that the Ulap could give money in other local officials' hands."

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'Corruption everywhere'

Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said he had no knowledge that Malacañang had distributed cash envelopes during Thursday's Palace meetings.

"I don't know about this that happened," he told reporters.

De Venecia said he did not know about the alleged cash distribution because he arrived to Malacañang at around 11 a.m. Thursday, or about three hours after the breakfast meeting between Ms Arroyo and the congressmen started.

Speaking at the centennial commemoration of the 1907 Philippine Assembly yesterday, De Venecia expressed dismay at reports of corruption, saying there were stories of "bribery here, bribery there, bribery everywhere."

"My hope now now make a solemn pledge to put an end to corruption in the Philippines," he said. "Otherwise, the country will be meaningless. We will again have a cycle of boom and bust." With reports from Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Gabriel Cordova, Nimfa and Cabrera and Bernice Galvez, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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DID YOU KNOW

BCDOM, a family of five living in Metro Manila must be earn at least P8,254 a month to sustain their minimum basic food and non-food needs, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board. Of the amount, about 60 percent is spent on basic food needs.
Cyril L. Bonalbalo, Inquirer Research

Ka Bel hurt in Manila road mishap

Militant solon wants police to conduct thorough probe to dispel rubout theory

By Tina G. Santos

ANAKPAWIS REP. CRISPIN "KA BEL" BELTRAN was injured after his van was hit by a sports utility vehicle in Intramuros, Manila yesterday morning.

Although his doctor said his condition was stable, the 71-year-old party-list representative remains under observation at the Philippine General Hospital after spitting blood and experiencing continuous nose bleeding. There were also cuts near his left eye, on the bridge of his nose, and a big bruise on his left shoulder.

Despite his injuries, Beltran said he was raring to get back to work because he did not want to miss any of the developments in what he described as the "worsening scandal" over Mrs. Arroyo's alleged money gifts to several congressmen, governors and other officials.

"This is an inconvenient time to be hospitalized. I don't want to be confined for a long time again," he said, referring to his 56-month hospital arrest in the Philippine Heart Center on a rebellion case filed against him last year. The case has since been dismissed.

"This is the first time my father was involved in a serious vehicular accident. We hope this does not worsen his heart condition," said Okha Bulbin, Beltran's daughter.

Beltran's driver, Jimmy Miranda, also remains under observation at the same hospital.

"Sir (Miranda) said he was dizzy and that his back aches," Bulbin said. The driver also sustained bruises in the legs and feet.

The incident happened at 9:30 a.m. at the corner of Juan Luna and Victoria Streets in Intramuros, Beltran said he was on his way from his daughter's house in Dalusan to attend the Centennial Anniversary of the Inauguration of the First Philippine Assembly in Intramuros on the invitation of Speaker Jose de Venecia. Beltran said he was seated on the front passenger seat and was about to alight from his Toyota Hi-ace van when a Ford Everest, driven by Bernard Madrona, rammed into the left side of his car before Miranda jumped.

"We were moving slowly because we were looking for the address where the Ford Everest hit us," the congressman said.

Due to the strong impact, Beltran hit his face on the steering wheel and on the windshield.

MILITANT: Rep. Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran

"When I regained consciousness, there were already many people around me," he said, adding that he and Miranda were given first aid by Philippine National Red Cross employees from a nearby office. The two were brought to the PGH where they were given medical attention.

Medicines and his vesicular companion were ordered. The couple were immediately brought to the MFO Traffic Management Group at Port Area. Bulbin said Madrona expressed willingness to cooperate in the investigation.

"He (Madrona) came to talk with us. He said he was coming back to see my dad," Bulbin said. "He seemed apologetic, and said he was quite worried the incident could become a controversial issue," she added.

Beltran said he wants police to conduct a thorough investigation of the incident. "If it's an accident, then I have it all in God," he told reporters.

If it was not, he added, "well, the government has 1,100 wa...

RAMBEL DIZ

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AFTER: A loop-overshot test run, Viaducto City's Tolintan Bridge was closed to vehicular traffic until after repair work on the structure is done

Bridge closed again for more repair work

By Margaux C. Deriz

BARELY TWO DAYS AFTER RE-opening the Tolintan Bridge in Valenzuela City to light vehicles, the Department of Public Works and Highways decided to close the structure last night for more extensive repairs.

Angelito Tuazon, DPWH National Capital Region assistant director, did not say when the additional improvements would be completed.

But Valenzuela Mayor Ebenezer Gatchalian said he and Ed Santos, the project engineer, agreed to give the DPWH two more weeks to complete work on the bridge.

Gatchalian said he agreed to the extension on the condition that the structure would be ready after the deadline.

Tuazon, meanwhile, explained that Monday's reopening was only a test run to determine the structure's soundness.

"The inconveniences that the motorists experienced were normal glitches which were outlined in the initial assessment of the bridge," he added.

The bridge which links Valenzuela to Malabon was reopened to light vehicles on Monday after more than six months of rehabilitation. Some people and cars, however, got stuck in the road as the road leading to the bridge had yet to be reopened.

But prompted Gatchalian to entertain the DPWH for the bridge's "premature opening."

Tuazon, however, explained that the reopening was part of their plan to help them determine possible problems with the structure's base. To would be dangerous not to test the bridge first before laying the asphalt. A amount of base—caused by the incessant rains—could lead to a subsidized pavement," he said.

Tuazon added that they also discovered that both ends of the bridge's approaches were sagging and needed to be replaced.

The DPWH would have to close the structure's base in the next two days by placing on it a mixture of cement and sand and a couple of boulders, he said.

He added that the subsidence, including the asphalt overlay, could take several days.

"We have to repeat the process in case it rains. We have no choice because we cannot sacrifice quality over expediting the opening day," he said.

Tuazon likewise stressed that DPWH officials were willing to face an investigation of the alleged overpricing of materials used in building the bridge and delays in the completion of the project.

"As far as we are concerned, we only did what was right and adhered to the bridge specifications," he said.

The P80-million bridge, originally set to be completed last June, was opened to pedestrians in late September.

The DPWH was criticized for the delays in construction and alleged anomalies in the implementation of the project, such as the use of overpriced materials and the awarding of the project to a contractor who had allegedly been blacklisted.

With Nancy C. Carvajal

Metro barangays under tight watch for Oct. polls

By Alexis Pupa

THE METRO MANILA POLICE will be keeping an eye on several barangays in Quezon City and Pasay. Watchlisted and flagged areas for violent incidents that would happen in connection with the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

But Chief Supt. Eric Javier, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) deputy chief for administration, said they do not yet consider these areas election "hotspots" based on the guidelines issued by the Commission on Elections.

He was referring to Barangays Payatas, Commonwealth, Holy Spirit and Bahay Toro in Quezon City; Mandaluyong Village in Taguig; Pasong Tamo in Makati; and Malibay and Merville in Pasay.

Javier described these areas as "highly populated, normally dense, powerful" and where political tension runs high during elections.

Around 8,000 policemen would be deployed for security operations during the synchronized elections, Javier said.

The PNP was deputized by the Comelec to make sure that the Oct. 29 polls are honest, orderly and peaceful.

But of the measures being implemented by the national police is a Comelec-imposed nationwide gun ban which took effect last Sept. 28 and will be enforced until Nov. 13.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS
Scavengers and landfill workers are back at work after the 14-hectare dump in Rodriguez, Rizal, reopened for business recently. It expanded between Sitio San Cristobal, Barangay Burgos and Barangay Rosario. Payatas in Quezon City earlier had to be closed because of the landfill. JAY ISRAEL

Depositor identifies QC bank suspect

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

A WOMAN WHO ROBBED A branch of the United Coconut Planters Bank in Quezon City, along with five men on Monday morning, has been positively identified by a bank depositor.

Through a picture grab from footage taken by the bank's closed-circuit cameras, one of the robbers, a resident of San Juan City, identified the woman suspect as Annalica Jules.

In the picture, the woman is seen holding a gun.

Capt. Jil Sapan of the Quezon City Police District, one of the court's lead investigators, said a check of their records showed that Jules was allegedly involved in other bank robberies.

She was reportedly a member of the Sangcaya group, a subgroup of the Sangkaya group, he added.

Six armed robbers barged into the UCPB branch on E. Rodriguez avenue Sunday morning, tied up the bank's employees and customers, and escaped with P500,000 in cash, but added that they were still searching for the bank's audit team to complete their findings.

Authorities said the suspects failed to open the vault because it was equipped with a time delay system. Among the valuables the suspects took were cellular phones, records showed.

Senior Supt. Soteo Razon, city police chief, said the boys were arrested with the gang leader, Reinaldo Gramoso, 35, of Tagalo St., Marikina Heights.

"We had to wait there over to a social worker for counseling together with their parents," Razon said.

Gramoso and the boys were caught in the act of robbing the house of Alfred Reyes, an OFW, also of Marikina Heights, at dawn Tuesday.

Based on their investigation, Razon said Gramoso ordered the teenagers to climb up the roof of the victim's house and from there, try to open a door through which the rest of the gang could enter.

Taken from the victim's house were 15 watches, expensive digital cameras, a radio and speakers, DVD players and an entertainment home theater set.

Also stolen were the victim's coin purse, piggy bank and clothes.

Razon said the boys were hired to help the residents enter their target houses because of their size.

"They are lean and small and could easily fit into tight spaces and climb windows and roofs without much noise because of their lighter weight," he added.

He said the boys were also taught by the residents to open unlocked doors and to not use lookouts.

Under Republic Act 9344, children in conflict with the law who are below the age of criminal responsibility, or those 15 years of age or below are to be immediately released by the police to the custody of the social welfare department before they are turned over to the children's parents, guardians or nearest relative.

Teen 'Akyat Bahay' members rob Marikina home

By Nancy C. Carvajal

SEVEN BOYS AGED 13 AND 17 said to be members of the "Akyat Bahay" gang were placed in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Develop. ment after they were caught robbing the house of an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) in Marikina City over the weekend.

Senior Supt. Soteo Razon, city police chief, said the boys were arrested with the gang leader, Reinaldo Gramoso, 35, of Tagalo St., Marikina Heights.

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Poetry in motion awaits Metro's train riders

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

PASSENGERS OF THE LIGHT Rail Transit Lines 1 and Line 2 are in for an entertaining and informative ride.

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) has teamed partners up to bring poetry lessons promoting poems written in Spanish and Filipino and decorated with colorful pictures.

Three on Rizal's Poem in the Metro," an interwriter campaign which aimed to encourage reading among Filipino commuters, was launched yesterday to strengthen the ties between the Philippines and Spain and to pay tribute to some of the best poets from the Philippines, Spain and other Latin American countries.

"We only would like to keep the passengers from getting bored, then would actually be learning something while in transit," Jose Rodriguez, director of Instituto Cervantes de Manila (ICDM), told the business.

"With almost one million commuters riding the trains every day, it provides a great opportunity for the reading corpuscles to reside as many people as possible," Rodriguez said, adding that this is a "defining moment" in the history of educational campaigns.

The selection of poems to, under the stock of Filipinos led by national hero Jose Rizal, Javier Balmori, Claro M. Recto, José Palma, Evangelina Guerrero, Pacífico Victoriano and Francisco Maria Guerrero. Spanish poets Calderón de la Barca, Lope de Vega, Garcia Lorca, Antonio Machado, Luis Cernuda, Luis Rosales, Miguel Hernández and Gil de Biedma and Latin American writers Pablo Neruda and César Vallejo.

"Estimation would now have something to ponder on when they ride the LRT. Reading celebrated poems is a very worthwhile activity to do," Mel Robles, LRTA administrator, told the business.

He said the reading campaign would run for about three months and could be extended depending on the response of the public.

For those who do not understand Spanish, a Filipino translation is posted alongside the Spanish version.

The campaign was organized by the LRTA, ICDM and the Committee for the Filipino-Spanish Friendship Day.

The ICDM is the cultural arm of the Spanish government that promotes and teaches the Spanish language and culture in the country. It is the largest Spanish-teaching organization worldwide, operating in more than 70 countries in four continents.

RIZAL'S POEMS: Consuelo director Jose Rodriguez shows Rizal's poems. BUSINESS MIRROR

METROBRIEFS

Vandal charged

A MAN allegedly high on solvent was arrested by the Manila police for repeatedly destroying the facade of a section of the Nagtahan Bridge on Sunday night.

SPO2 Rosalito Jurnino of the Station 10 City Anti Special Operations Group said Michael Rubio, 23, of Otis Street, Paco, was caught by two barangay officials punching the railing lights on the bridge at around 11:30 p.m. Rubio, who police suspected to be drunk, tried to run away but stopped, trembling in his arrest. He was brought to the Ospital ng Maynila for the treatment of his wounds before he was turned over to the custody. On Monday, Rubio was charged with malicious mischief before the City Prosecutor's Office for damaging 30 lamps that cost P6,000 each.

Alexis M. Lopez

Missing teenager

NAMIA Quintanes, a 14-year-old girl, has been reported missing by her guardian and uncle, Edgar Bacalso. She was last seen on her way to 1st Tee Tutorial at 1st floor Gaisano Arcadia, Sitio Sitio wearing a green T-shirt, a pair of silver hand clips. She comes from Aliaga in Nueva Ecija and stands around 5'2". Anyone with information on the whereabouts can call at her uncle 0918-1732284 or 0905-9188114.

Book launching set

DR. RUBY O. Rubio will launch his book titled, "Gems 01: Memories to Remember" at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 19 at Solo Bookist, 88 Retablo High Street, Global City, Taguig, according to the author. Some top executives of Global Laboratory senior alumnus of Antipolo High School. "The book chronicles the hopes and dreams, successes and failures, and the lessons learned along the way of the most celebrated batch in Antipolo High School history, 'Among the prominent members of Class '01 are Supreme Court Justice Lucas Bersamin, Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Conrado Vasquez Jr., Rubio, businessman Jaime Laya, former Manila mayor Lito Atienza, Daily Tribune Publisher Belinda Olivares-Ilusorio, Philippine Star Columnist Ana Marie Pamintuan, Philippine Daily Inquirer Columnist Conrado de Quiros, Philippine Daily Inquirer Columnist Ricky Carandang, Philippine Daily Inquirer Columnist Ramon Tulfo, Philippine Daily Inquirer Columnist Solita Monsod, Philippine Daily Inquirer Columnist Randy David, Philippine Daily Inquirer Columnist Alex Magno, Philippine Daily Inquirer Columnist Ricardo Saludo, Philippine Daily Inquirer Columnist Ricardo Saludo, Philippine Daily Inquirer Columnist Ricardo Saludo

World Briefs

Quakes hit NZ

WELLINGTON—After dozens rolled New Zealand's South Island on Tuesday, quite 10 hours after a major tribute it from the epicenter struck the area, New Zealand's Geological Survey said. He afternoon, the strongest measuring 6.2, on the Richter scale, followed the original blades, which was centered 40 kilometers east of the city and 40 kilometers west of Mt. Hard Mountain off the south-west coast of the South Island. The first quake was at a depth of 24 km, but not felt widely throughout the northern half of the South Island. **Reuters**

Prisoner swap

HAZLAN, Lebanon—Israel and Hezbollah exchanged the remains of an Israeli soldier on Monday for a soldier's Lebanese guerrilla and the bodies of three Lebanese in a UN-backed deal. Lebanese Hezbollah officials said Hezbollah handed over the remains of Ehud Goldwasser, 31, who was kidnapped by the group in January 2006. A Lebanese source said the body had been identified by Lebanese-Israeli and others Lebanese-Israeli and handed it over to the Israelis. Israel freed prisoner Nasser Taher Issa, a Hezbollah fighter captured in the 2006 war, and handed over the bodies of Ali Nimmer and Muhammad Qawaqzeh, who had apparently been taken to Israel after they died in the fighting in Lebanon. **Reuters**

Border tensions

ANKARA—Senators rounded along the Iraqi-Turkish border on Monday as the Turkish government sought parliamentary approval to deploy cash into northern Iraq. The vote by Parliament will permit Turkish commanders to conduct the border a period of feasible weeks, who research attacks into Turkey from the Kurdish region of Iraq. The rebels, members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, known as the PKK, have been using refuge in the mountains of Kurdish on the Iraqi side of the border. They are responsible for acts used as terrorism by Kurdish region on the far southern part of Turkey. The Iraqi government urged Turkey on Monday to make a diplomatic solution. **AFP**

Oil prices hit new record, nears $88

LONDON—OIL TRADERS around the world on Tuesday, having a new record and extending a rally that has added 40 to in recent days on signs supplies, strong demand and rate cuts soon in northern Iraq.

Oil is closing in on the inflation-adjusted high of $90.40 a barrel in 1980, the year after the Iranian revolution said at the start of the Iran-Iraq war. Prices this year have averaged $67.

At 0553 GMT US crude was up $1.82 at $87.33, off a high of $87.37. London Brent was up $1.15 at $83.90.

Oil has on a series of records over the year have done.

Investors have cited rising tensions between Turkey and Turkish separatists in northern Iraq, steady world energy demand growth, tight inventories in consumer centres heading into winter and supposedly limited investment in energy supplies.

"It is difficult to find any bearish factors now. There's the Iraq-Turkey issue, a weak dollar, and inventory levels for US heating oil are much lower than a year ago," said Tetsu Emori, fund manager at Japan's Asmont Futures Co. Ltd.

US distillate inventories, including those for heating fuel, are expected to ease by 300,000 barrels for the week ended Oct. 12, a Reuters poll showed of the volume of the Energy Information Administration's weekly data released.

The latest flurry of buying extends the market's rise from below $70 to mid-August, a rally fuelled by the record lows in the US dollar, sturdy world energy demand growth and tight inventories ahead of the peak heating season.

A possible Turkish military attack against Kurdish separatists in Iraq has also accentuated buying as dealers focus on possible disruptions to regional oil supplies.

The Turkish cabinet asked parliament on Monday for permission to launch the attack. Iraqi oil exports via Turkey have been sporadic since 2003, although Turkey is also one's major outlets for Caspian oil exports to the West for reasons.

"It's mainly driven by the situation on the Turkey-Iraq border at the moment and the uncertainty that surrounds it," said Tobin Gorey, a commodity strategist at Australia's Commonwealth Bank. "The market is paying for that uncertainty now." **Reuters**

New dinosaur species found

RIO DE JANEIRO—PALEONTologists from Argentina and Brazil on Monday unveiled a new giant dinosaur species that lived 95 millions of years ago in the Patagonian region of Argentina, where they found its fossils.

"It is one of the three largest dinosaur fossils ever discovered in the world and the most complete because we found 75 percent of its skeleton," Argentina's Canadian National University Paleontology Center director Jorge Calvo told reporters.

Belonging to the Titanosaur family, the newly discovered member of the Loginosaurus genus measured 32-34 meters and lived exclusively in Patagonia. **AFP**

American trio wins 2007 Nobel for economics

STOCKHOLM—A NUMBER of academic who studied both the Government revolution and the lessons of World War II became the oldest pioneers ever, a United Pulse can Monday, capturing a joint award for a pioneering studies theory.

Leonid Hurwicz, 90, and Eric Maskin and Roger Myerson, both the 2007 looked in economics for finding the foundations of a theory that determines which mechanisms to use in a workplace.

A bemused-sounding Hurwicz, who has sought at the University of Minnesota since 1951, also starting on the United States to escape World War II, said he had not expected to win.

"At the moment, I thought this one, more perhaps had passed already," the American citizen said in a telephone interview.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said the award honoured the trio's work on "mechanism design theory," which examines how well-defined economic key in allocating resources and the need for government intervention.

The theory was the brainchild of Hurwicz, who was born in Moscow the year of the Russian revolution. Maskin of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and Myerson of the University of Chicago refined and tested his ideas.

Maskin was born in 1950 and Myerson in 1951, the same year Hurwicz joined the faculty of Minnesota, a school less noted then for "Ivy League" environment for researchers research.

Maskin, who has an applied mathematics doctorate from Harvard, said he was relieved to find all three of them had won.

"I guess we first thought when I heard Hurwicz was one of the winners was a sense of relief. Hurwicz has been a candidate for many years and he's now 90 years old and time was running out," Maskin said in a telephone conference with journalists.

"It was a tremendous thrill to have that he won and to share the prize with him and with Myerson. Our friendship goes back to university time." The academy said mechanism design theory now plays a central role in many areas of economics and parts of political science. **Reuters**

HURWICZ

MYERSON

MASKIN

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HAIRLOSS EXPERTS IN AMERICA REVEAL FRIGHTENING FACTS

Men Going Bald Lose One Hair Every 15 Minutes!

Recent research from top trichologists in the USA reveals that the rate of a man's baldness can reach about 55,000 hairs a year on a baldness-prone head. That means, when receding and thinning are at their peak, a man on his way to baldness is losing one hair approximately every fifteen minutes!

As most men prize to experimenting any hairloss have a total scalp cover of 100,000 to 150,000 hairs or more, a more than disappearing every hour don't get noticed - until it's too late. Shaved on these figures it's easy to see how it takes only 2-3 years for a 30-year old man to be bald by the time he's 31 - if he does nothing about it.

Without treatment this man will likely be totally bald in just 2-3 years.

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Burma junta defiant, won't back down

Japan cuts aid, EU widens sanctions

RANGOON—BURMA'S (MYANMAR'S) MILITARY JUNTA ON Tuesday shrugged off international steps to punish the regime for its bloody crackdown on protests, even as Japan cut aid and European nations widened sanctions.

State media insisted there were no political prisoners in the country and smashed a UN Security Council statement slamming the violence used to quell the biggest anti-government protests in nearly two decades.

The response came amid growing international pressure on the regime to halt its repression and launch talks with the pro-democracy opposition led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

Japan, one of Burma's main donors, said on Tuesday it was cancelling grants of about $23 million over the fatal shooting of a Japanese journalist when security forces put down last month's huge protests.

Overnight, European overseas foreign ministers approved a new set of sanctions against the junta including a ban on the export of wood, gems and metals, and slammed further penalties.

US President George W. Bush, whose country has imposed targeted sanctions against junta leaders, called for "enormous international pressure to be brought to bear on the generals that they call for completely isolated and not accepted into the international community."

But Russia vowed to resist, saying in comments that "any will merely do. There is no reason to change the course," "We will remove all the limitations and obstacles that may be cleared," the official New Light of Myanmar daily said.

The newspaper criticised last week's Security Council statement deploring the crackdown and calling for the release of political prisoners.

"The situation in Burma does not constitute a threat to the regional and international peace and security," it said.

Yesterday, there was no sign in Burma who is in prison for political reasons. There are only those against whom action has been taken in violation of the existing laws," it added. "Anti-government groups incite and instigate the riots and use students and unsuspecting Buddhist monks in street public plots." Last month's protests led by Buddhist monks drew up to 100,000 people into the streets in what were initially the most powerful show of opposition since nationwide demonstrations were crushed in 1988.

But they were violently broken up by troops and riot police in an operation that left at least 13 people dead and more than 2,000 locked up.

The United Nations says the junta (pardon) a top middle-income as Burma after the crackdown to stare spots cited Than Shwe and Aung San Suu Kyi, who is held in detention at her lakeside home.

Gambari continued in the region yesterday as the start of a regional tour aimed at tackling pressure on the regime, saying in Bangkok that reports of further arrests of activists were "extremely disturbing."

Since the start of October, Than Shwe has made a heavily-coordinated offer of direct talks with Aung San Suu Kyi provided she drops support for sanctions and ends "confrontational" policies.

The regime has also eased its curfew and released former senior first lieutenant on all during the protests.

At the same time, security forces have kept up the pressure on dissidents, arresting six more activists in the weekend, according to rights group Amnesty International. AFP

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Intact Phone Pals face Aces today

IF THE MATERIALS YOU'VE GOT DON'T CANCEL OUT the other team, it might be best to talk about motivation.

The coach strategy coach Tim Cone will use when the Alaska Aces battle the Welcoat Paint Phone Pals, the same they have to bet women's Pants Cup Finals, today in the 31st Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We know they're iPhone Pals' going to be motivated with a complete lineup," said Cone. "Our motivation will be to beat them again."

Their first championship win, nothing much has changed for the Aces except the addition of some promising rookies.

On the other hand, the Phone Pals have welcomed back their reunited scoring trio of Jayjay Alejang, Jay Eudave and Ronnie Ravales, whose return to the national scene added new dimensions to their games.

Their return has greatly solidified talking—the Aces might take a more positive guard as opposite past the Phone Pals in the 7:30 p.m. match.

Paras-Pardo and Tan, Lee to double rebates on 6.9% p.a. with the '12 Hondapot cup to even-keep the all-Filipino crown often relinquished last season.

After failing to forge into the Finals four in two conferences last year due to injuries to its key players, Hyundai now provides a healthy roster backed up by new reinforcement Kenneth Ashland.

The Spoilers also have an extra center with Kelly Williams, who had a tournament-wide season and semi with the HP team, expected to be the man to watch.

Despite their rough history, coach Derick Pumaren admits that his Phone Pals are fit to swing into the title.

"We know what attacks can do, so we'll just have to be ready for them," said Pumaren.

The Aces seemed susceptible to attack after losing key players Ola Belasco, whose intensity in the point Cone hopes to get from freshman forwards Bono and JR Quinahan, a pair of bulky 6-foot-5s snagged in the draft.

Belasco was slapped to Welcoat in exchange for Jojo-Jay Colasco and a future pick during the off-season. Jhaw Navarro

Fil-Am, Vega sparkle as RP-Cebuana bests Thais

FIL-AM VEGA BRICE AND VETERAN Emilia Vega provided the spunk and the dash lookout as the Philippines-Cebuana women's team advanced from Thailand, 80-75, Monday night in the South East Asian Basketball Zonal championship in Baden.

Brice, a 5-foot-7 guard who played for the Philippine Women's University (PWU) and the UE WOAA, was named first the Filipinos with 18 points while Vega, the point skipper, earned three of four threes in the dying seconds to key the come-from-behind win.

The Filipinas, formed just two months ago, trailed by two points at the first half, 39-37, and by as many as seven by the third quarter before Brice suggested the comeback with hard down to the border.

"The girls played a tough defense on their taller opponents throughout the game," coached coach Ito Gomez.

Individual by squads with 40 rebounds, Vega, who contributed 10 points, came through with the crucial deadline.

Other scorers for RP-Cebuana were Irine Velasco and Aurora Adriano, who chipped in 11 points apiece, Jean Dogelio with 10, LAAP MVP Cassie Tanenco with 7, Joyce Villanueva with 3 and Fil-Aguinaldo Rosa with 1.

Other opening-day games saw Malaysia dump Indonesia, 99-60, and Thailand over Singapore, 88-66.

The Philippines will play Indonesia Tuesday night and Singapore on Wednesday night. The Filipinas will battle the Malaysians, the reigning Southeast Asian Games champ, on Thursday.

Friday will see the crossover knockout games among the four semifinalists, with the top two teams battling for the gold and the second-ranked team battling No. 3.

"Even in our practices, I already had an idea how the girls were feeling," said Gomez, a former PBA player and Ateneo coach. "They were very anxious."

RP-Cebuana's assistant manager Jesse Sevilla said the girls' focus and determination was the key.

"After they kicked in tonight, these girls certainly more than made up for a while for Christ," said Sevilla.

Liga Pilipinas merges 2 regional cage tourneys; Eala resurfaces

By Prospero T. J. Chiwa

A NEW BASKETBALL LEAGUE, 1998 vehicle seats a bright year at the future and a very one at the past, was born yesterday following the announcement that two regional basketball tournaments have decided to merge.

It will be called Liga Pilipinas.

And at the forefront of the merger is a basketball personality who knows a thing or two about running a league and unifying two separate entities.

"Liga Pilipinas will be the new face of the effort to unify regional basketball in the country," said Bob Eala, former PBA commissioner and one of the key personalities behind the merger of the Socialising Basketball ng Pilipinas and the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

The league will be formed on a merger between the Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association and the National Basketball Conference. The two leagues have agreed to work toward a goal that will actually call for the dissolution of their tournaments.

"There's no use really having two separate leagues by operate under a similar purpose," said Olympian Welhaart "Tito" Pedido.

Also present during the launch were Bryce Mercado and Pelita Gravenilos, who represented the MVBA, Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino and Tito Palma of the NBC, Mexican Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno and Asadores To, part of the organizing group.

The idea of a regional basketball tournament was first put to test by the Metropolitan Basketball Association in 1998. But the MBA crumbled five years later under the weight of excessive spending.

"We do not want to be hounded by members of the past," Eala said. "We do not want to commit the same folly."

Although the league will start in the first quarter next year, several prospects have already been agreed upon, among which is to curb expenditures.

Eala said a team in the new league will cost less than maintaining a PBL squad. In fact, running the league will cost less than half of what it takes to maintain a PBA squad for a year.

"I see it working on an annual budget of P15 to 12 million," Eala said. "But I always try to find ways to cut costs so there's a chance we can really really go lower than that."

LA SALLE'S Pierre Carlo Lloyd Christian Jay Magsanoc and J

Bata, Django spark Pinoy bets' romp in US Open

POOL MAESTRO EFREN "BATA" REYES, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Alex Pagulayan benefited their respective rivals to join seven other Filipinos in the winning rotation at the three-cushion 72nd Annual US Open 9-Ball in Chesapeake, Virginia, yesterday.

Reyes, the 1999 Cuadil World 9-ball champion, trounced Jan Bartholt, 11-3, while former world No. 1 Bustamante ousted David Howell, 11-4, as they duplicated Pagulayan's 11-3 conquest of Gordon Bass.

Other Filipino victors were current MSN 9-ball and 8-ball titlist Rustico Adanza, Lee Vann Corteza, Rodolfo Luat, Jose Parico, Warren Kiamco, Dennis Orcollo and Ronnie Alcano.

Reyes arranged a second-round clash with Marc Vidal, an 11-9 winner over Tommy Hernandez, while Bustamante forged a meeting with Richie Florendo, who drew a bye in round two.

Pagulayan, the 2006 Taiwan World 9-ball champion, will next face Frank Mcnatt, who beat Hank Benevier, 11-8.

Alcano ousted Ryan Shoemaker, 11-2; Corteza dumped Shawn Kenyon, 11-4; Luat bested Hunter Lobinski, 11-5; Parico blanked John Rarick, 11-0; Kiamco nipped Carnelo Mangula, 11-10; Orcollo pummeled an default save Cliff Joyner while Alcano drew a bye.

Matches Reyes vs Florendo, Luat vs Parico

SPORTSWATCH

So settles for draw; Salvador up

KUPANG (REUTER) SO KWEK-HUA STOPPED HIS third Monday night, drawing with fellow IM Tamas Banasz of Hungary to the penultimate round of the World Juniors and Girls Chess Championships in Heraklio, Germany. So, seeking two back-to-back losses from the 10th-round setback, had to G Lyonnis and shared 22nd to 30th places in the Boy U-20 under division being led by Grandmasters Ahmed Adly of Egypt and Ivan Popov of Russia. **Mario Bernardino, Contributor**

88 tilts up at Pasig Square today

CHESSPLAYERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES and overseas today at the Pasig Square Garden for the PC Builder Magazine 12th Anniversary Stag Derby. The field of more than 80 matches gets going at 9 a.m. The list of participants includes 2007 World Junior Cup champion Wesley So, Danilo Wild, Mayor Jaime Ho Agustin and Noel Deleguero. Bruce Stanley Barrueco has signed a guaranteed prize of P400,000.

Stag Championship set at PCC

GRANDMASTER ROLAND TORRE HAS BEEN DECLARED scratch against the 1100 Stag Championship which begins today at the Pasay City Godspot. Banked to Singapore Complex, the one-day round is headed by Gerry Ramos and the family group. 24 managers Eric Alex Rosa and Rodney Chua said the highest scorer after six fights will win the title.

Lagba derby gets going at SJC

MEMBERS OF THE LINGUNA MARATHON BREED are favorites in Lagba's grind as the battle today in a 3-stage derby featuring some 1100 girls at the San Juan Coliseum. They will be the second of four derbies lined up for Lagba. More than 100 breeders, consumes the group, headed by its beautiful daughters Sonia Lagba, Ari Mendoza, Jimmy Kamagat, Peter Sinn, Ivan Lagba, Tita Marco and Joey Lagba.

Adamson grabs lead

Sweeps Lyceum in 3 sets; Lady Archers bounce back

By Rowena S. Austria

ADAMSON UNIVERSITY (UAAP) THE undefeated while La Salle bounced back from an opening-day loss yesterday in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

Striking in its first set and forcing the entry to give up 29 points on errors, the Lady Falcons dumped the Lyceum Lady Pirates, 25-18, 25-21, 25-17, for a 2-0 card.

The Lady Falcons got going Sunday with a 25-23, 25-21, 27-25 decision of the Far Eastern University Lady Tamaraws.

In the second game, the defending champion Lady Archers shook off a sluggish start to turn back the Letran Lady Knights, 25-15, 25-13, 25-12, and even their record at 1-1.

Adamson, which played aside in the first conference, denied the same winning aura in all three sets of the 60-minute match. Only libero Lyden Ayo-Lora and Michelle Segubion count as an exploitation.

Game player Nerissa Bautista scattered 13 points, including 11 on kills, while team captain Jacqueline Alinsug added 10 for Adamson.

The Lady Falcons made quick work of the first two sets from the third-place trophy last conference over the Lady Archers. Only Shirah Lee Gotilla delivered a double digit with 12 points.

"We played superb defense and consistent lower errors," said Adamson coach Nilo Adtoyo. Dalle Bistre, whose squad gave away only 7 points on errors. "Lyceum is one of the strong teams in this tournament but if we can alleviate play and defend well, we have a chance."

Trailing, 19-18, in the first set, Liz Galit leaned on Stephanie Mercado, Jacqueline Alinsug, Bistre Suer and guard Glover Villanueva. Pamaranan, who controlled the front line to blend convenient over the set's last 10 points.

Letran lost its sting from there. After tying the count in the second set at 13-13, the Lady Knights got outscored, 9-1.

Lyceum completely dominated the third set, where it took a 15-12 spread.

Alinsug made a career-high 12 points for La Salle, including three off blocks, while Bautista backed her up with 10.

Letran got 13 points from Bangladesh Bautista, who had an injury scare late in the third set when she slipped while trying to retrieve a blind side up to.

Batawang's long, lonely quest for a title

BARE EYE

Mervin Fernández

WEATHER. ME. Byrd it or not, first announcer Jon Sciambi behind some of his best plays he—a great pair of him—as the Wild Card game were surely four months of heard only that one him through the headset, were trying moments to hit 17-year struggle to a professional lower.

It's hard to say whether Batawang, 35, would be able to return to the Nationals give to pick up his weapons and finally get a QUALIFICATION with Kingsley.

Some of the no-point matches have gradually gone to seven.

Batawang could also go down as the only Filipino who refused forgave for a maybe worth $80 bil.

* * *

In case you're forgotten, this is the same hard-working warrior who twice swooned and cursed obliquely despite record-extending postponements of his trade at a crucial title.

He was already at his peak.

In fact, he had already secured the requisite medical approval when he got word that his Oct. 6 title bout against WBC light flyweight champion Ulises Solís of Mexico had been put off.

Prior to that, the title bout versus Nobi, originally on June 16, had to be postponed after the Mexican champ showed he had injured his shoulder.

* * *

It's odd but, before the two postponements, I don't recall the fact that his fight for Batawang, as members of the RP team in the Boxing World Cup, that was wrapped in the last minute.

And, prior to this hospital World Cup appearance, Batawang said there was also a postponed world title elimination against a certain Francisco Rosas.

So how many times has he been frustrated?

The poor woman has scraped keeping a count, although it was over to his chamber to another drop-dead fee.

* * *

"Medyo nasaktan ako eh. Dito finally, hindi ko kasi [I stumbled the dusky, middle-aged warrior with the look and frame of a younger striker].

This was on a Monday late last September.

Batawang spoke at the A-C Mercure down along Ayala Ave. in search of a job position, after the firing on April with some Romanian Quijano in their first bouts.

While Batawang left some of his fame cases at Wild Card, he added many, his company statements of appearance from his friends at the ring point.

At first, Batawang said he got paid $15,000, representing half the purse of his strapped boot at the World Cup.

He was also given $5,000 by GOKEL Boy Promotions at his share from subsidies revenues.

* * *

Of course, he would have been a lot richer, said Ernesto Claveria, if Batawang had also been given the claim for Lindsey, which had his World Cup assistance, received from the organizers.

Batawang nodded. Only and admitted that he regretted not getting the extra cash which, he thought, he deserved. He did not like to look and sound petty for the world record he came to get rid of the Philippine scene, after all.

* * *

What's more sickening, of course was that he did not get a single cent for what could go down as the longest, toughest sojourn ever for a Filipino world title seeker.

"As a mandatory challenger, he doesn't get paid for the postponements," Tommy Gilligan-ao, Batawang's manager explained.

He refused to elaborate.

The first word after the postponement of the Oct. 4 title date was that the championship bout been reset for November. There were the announcement that both (35-1-1, with 18 KOs) would be in order to fight in January.

Meanwhile, Batawang (30-6 with 24 KOs) has not dropped his pound and continues to train in earnest for the title work that is no longer just around the corner.

Metro Manila POF leg under way

By Jane Navarro

THE SEARCH FOR FUTURE OLYMPIC ATHLETES continues with the staging of the National Capital Region qualifying games of the Philippine Olympic Festival starting today at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Some 1,500 athletes from 17 teams and clubs are taking part in the five-day event with the winners advancing to the national finals.

Sports Commissioner Joey Mercado will be the keynote speaker during the 7 a.m. opening ceremony today with Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and POF chief Rafael Alunan expected to grace the affair.

SPORTS

Here come the Rockies

Hot Colorado sweeps Arizona, reaches baseball World Series

DENVER—THE STREAKING COLORADO Rockies roared into their first World Series after holding off the Arizona Diamondbacks, 6-4, to sweep the National League Championship Series on Monday.

The win Holliday belted a three-run homer versus his ex-mates Enadi during outburst to send the expansion club into baseball's classic for the first time.

"This is pretty incredible," Holliday told reporters after being named the MLCS most valuable player.

The win was the 21st in 22 games for the Rockies, who have won all seven of their postseason games including four successive victories over the Diamondbacks in the National League Championship Series.

It was the first time that a team swept its first seven postseason games since the 1976 Cincinnati Reds, known then as The Big Red Machine.

The Rockies will play either the Cleveland Indians or the Boston Red Sox in the World Series beginning Oct. 24.

The Indians beat the Red Sox, 4-2, on Monday to take a 3-1 lead in their American League Championship Series.

Holliday ended the Rockies' scoring in the 6-1 lead and they survived a three-run frame by Arizona's Chris Snyder to win their 10th straight game, including the regular season.

"It was fun, this has been a great ride," Rockies first baseman Todd Helton told reporters when asked about Colorado's first trip. "We're not done yet." Reuters

The Colorado Rockies celebrate their victory into the World Series with the National League trophy.

Pereiro now Tour champion

MADRID, SPAIN—OSCAR PEREIRO FINALLY got his hands on the cobalt-blue yellow jersey from the 2006 Tour de France on Monday.

"Finally, we have a winner and it's Oscar," Tour director Christian Prudhomme said. "Last year, he was the Tour out on the road."

The Spaniard moved up from second to first after the disqualification of Floyd Landis for doping.

"I have had the feeling of suffering at the end of a thriller, after having spent 14 months thinking about it and not being able to concentrate as I should have on my job," Pereiro said. "It is economically a kind of release."

The International Cycling Union formally declared Pereiro the winner on Sept. 21, one day after a U.S. arbitration panel voted 2-1 to remove the title from Landis for using synthetic testosterone during the Tour.

It's the first time in the 105-year history of the race that a Spaniard has been stripped of the title.

"The moment I received the proof of my work, I had mixed feelings, something between satisfaction and anger for what we were deprived of," Pereiro said.

PEREIRO

Pereiro stood on the top step of a podium with 26 winner's jersey, not doing the Champs-Elysees as a triumphant champion would but in offices of Spain's Sport Ministry.

Landis has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which is expected to issue a final and binding ruling by mid-February. AP

'Parole possible for Distrito'

By Jasmine W. Paya

FOR THE PLAYERS WHO FREE THE unfortunate lack of money problems on the court, Ato King was almost bad news.

Remember, though, he is the bearer of good tidings, especially when it came to news about the incarcerated Rudy Distrito, whom he fought a bout of memorable basketball seen against.

"The board of pardon in Novato is already preparing the parole papers," top for Rudy," Empowerment PBA Forum yesterday. "Boys, enjoy habitations on long release plus tips. (That's why they are studying his release plan)."

King dropped by the PBA Forum sponsored by Marley's and Pagcor to find local journalists on the status of former PBA "bad boy" who is currently in jail for homicide. So also gave a presentation on Awards Association about his PBA Legends Foundation, a group that aims to help ex-professionals.

Distrito is one of the first beneficiaries of the group, which played exercises of exhibition matches to raise funds for the expert's legal defense.

In between serious talks, King also found time to rekindle his old rivalry with the people who once crowned his chewdown career.

"Mighty traveling after this ZB be a little beautiful lover," the UA-bloved King said. "He's long indeed to any basketball, against me gangsta bullets, pedigree for basketballmaking ako ng mga-ganung lines. But if I were still playing today, I think 10 lines a lot of edge)."

"Iyaan tayo nga maliit ka, maalong kalaroppin na (Look at my feet, it's like that of a boxer's always)," the 5ft 6in-tall King, who played in the PBA from 1977 to 1995. He ends former to Toyota, Great Taste and Dunkwads.

Asean Tour resumes at Malarayat today

By Manny R. Castillo

LIPA CITY—SWIRLING WINDS, SOGGY fairways and lightning-fast greens are the elements to contend with today when a huge local group led by lawyer-Manokwari and a slew of foreigners battle it out in the Philippine leg of the Asian Tour at the Malarayat host.

Manokwari becomes the Philippine champ in the $50,000 (around P2.20 million) event to be played on the Monarch Lobo and Mahogany courses.

"It's anybody's game here," Manokwari told the Inquirer yesterday with still two holes left in his final practice round over the perfectly manicured composite courses, both of which were used during the 2005 BP Open won by Jeeno Allen Jacobsen.

"I don't think anybody has the edge," he added. "But of course, we (Filipinos) have a slight advantage because of our familiarity with the course. But you still have to bring your A-game to win."

Manokwari is looking to build on his seventh-place finish in the Asian Tour with a stumbling come-from-behind victory in the Mandaue Johor Open in Malaysia two months ago.

He tees off at the 8:30 a.m. group together with one-time Asian Tour winner and rookie pinay Angelo Que and Thailand's perennial Sweeper.

Though he now knows to withdraw from the Korean Open because of food poisoning and Dino cooked noodles week after that, Manokwari feels that he has the game to contend this week.

Jave Papasman and Gerald Bondoc are also rated highly among the 66 Filipinos entered slate to draw previous strong stars at the sprawling complex that is about two hours south of Manila.

The 20-year-old Papasman was the low amateur in the 2005 BP Open, even contending for the championship until a spate of bogeys late in his final nine did him in.

Bondoc finished second to Jo Merchan two years ago and is one of three Asian BP Open winners in the event along with Robert Parkinson and Gaurav Ghei.

First place in this event, the third biggest in the country after the Open and The Country Club Invitational, is worth $6,889 (around P2,25,900). The runner-up gets $3,389 and third place $1,938.

Confab seeks softball's return to Olympics

THE CAMPAIGN SEEKING THE reinstatement of softball to the list of sports at the 2016 Olympic Games is one of the top agenda when the Philippine leads the 23rd International Softball Federation Congress on Oct. 24-27 at the Edsa Shangri-la hotel.

ISF president Don Porter and the other members of the ISF executive council earlier unveiled a 16-point blueprint designed to boost softball and integrate the sport's use of the International Olympic Committee in assuming sports in the Olympic program.

This includes a plan to increase the number of national softball federations from 120 to 200 by 2009, increase softball among the youth and get 12.5 million people into the sport by next year, and help more girls and women play the sport in the Middle East.

Delegates from some 70 ISF member-countries are joining the congress.

"The decision by the IOC to exclude softball from the program for London (Olympics) in 2012 was a wake-up call for our sport," said Porter of the launch of the ISF campaign last June.

"We believe that the Congress which the Philippines is hosting for the very first time ... will play an important role in the IOC's decision-making process and in campaign to get back in the Olympic Games," said Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines president Jose Jesus Ejercito.

FLYING HIGH: The victorious Arroyo squad and their overseers show their trophy after ruling the recent Nike Small Basketeers of the Philippines (SBP) NCR tournament with an 84-33 whipping of La Salla Francisco, standing, are Nike Basketeer Nic Jorge, assistant coach Daniel Pelino, Paolo Quinquin, Nic Pono, Mark Quimbon, Thirdy Ravena, Jio Jalalon, Miguel Mitarnula, Amino Aurelio, tournament guest and former PBA MVP Allan Caidic, Jr. Jose Ferrera, SL assistant coach Bong Hupa and head coach Marc Sumitra. Seated, camaraderie, are Glenn Cortes, Archie Bacalso, Jon Cezanig, Mathias Nieva, Javier Mendoza, Dain Jaraa, Michael Mesa and Aaron Black.

Balanced field turns PBL into wide open fight

By Jasmine W. Paya

BALANCED SQUADS CERTAINLY MAKE for great and exciting contests.

Hillsbury players love tag their teams to join the national team over the pro league, a tough, wide-open competition is expected when the PBL First Conference unfolds this Saturday at The Arena in San Juan.

"The best players are in the national team at just moved to join the PBA," said Toyota Balintawak coach Ariel Vanguardia at the PBA Forum yesterday at Shakey's United Malate. "The teams are now very balanced."

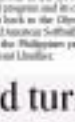
Toyota Balintawak will miss the services of seven players led by Philippine Dreamers, the pro league's top rookie pick this season.

"That's a very big shoe to fill," said Vanguardia of Jayson's departure.

But among Toyota's key returnees is guard Chester Villanueva, who will be reunited with La Salle teammate JV Casio.

Chito Vicedoyo, who will serve as assistant to Jose Mig Collier coach Boy Bauzil, said, "We also have a new look. We have many new players, we only have five holdovers from the last conference."

Coaching Collier this early Jose Miguel Pingcuelal, though, remains potent with the acquisition of veteran center Yeyet Acio and PEDRO



HEAD Most Valuable Player Edwin dela Peña of Hillsbury.

Even three-time champion Purefoods Tender, which loaned its stars to the all-amateur Philippine team, predicts a wide-open race.

"I think it will be tough for us," said Purefoods coach Alfred Vargas. "It's a young team for us this conference."

Meanwhile, the league elected Lamudpro Corporation president Cecilio Pedro as its new chair during the board of governor's meeting yesterday at Shangri-la Hotel.

Hardwood Classic owner Wilson Raymundo will serve as vice chair, while Diag Cosmos Corporation Bravo will be treasurer this season.

mobile news

BUSINESS

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French-led group wins Calaca bid

$786.53-M offer edges out First Gen, AES

IN THIS ISSUE

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- **RP posts $95-M** BOP deficit /B8

By Abigail L. Ho

CALACA HOLDCO INC., A consortium led by France's Suez-Tractebel, yesterday topped the bidding for the 600-megawatt Calaca coal-fired power plant in Batangas with a bid of $786.53 million.

The group edged out the Lopez family's First Gen Corp. and AES Corp., the company that won the bidding for the 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant in July.

The Calaca plant was sold with 289 MW of supply contracts attached to it, 149 MW of which were with Manila Electric Co.

Bidding for the Calaca plant had failed twice over the past two years, due mainly to the lack of supply contracts attached to it.

With supply contracts covering more than half of the plant's dependable capacity, Calaca Holdco is assured of a ready market for the electricity

(NEWS ALERT B1)

Exporters cut growth target

By Norman P. Bocanegra

LOCAL EXPORTERS ARE CUTTING THEIR target growth of 11 percent for 2007 to between 5 percent and 6 percent due to the continued strength of dollar against the peso.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, said the group was still confident that export earnings would grow this year but that the dismal performance in the past three months forced the target cut.

Ortiz-Luis was reacting to government reports that exports shrank 4.6 percent last August.

He said exports showed a 4.6 percent year-on-year growth from January to July, but that rate already "below the average performance of the BOP and the [semiconductors and electronics industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi)].

"Top earners with imported inputs like electronics, semiconductors, garments and accessories parts, may still post some growth to exceed," Ortiz-Luis said.

"But exports made from local materials may decrease for the remainder of this year," he added. "They are suffering the worst from the appreciation of the peso."

The Philippine's president said can be prod-

(EXPORTERS B4)

Shares close 1.2% lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.2 PERCENT lower yesterday following a slide in Asian markets as Wall Street investment banks struck by losses have given up on the idea of this month's rate hike, dealers said.

They added comments by US Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke that rate cuts to combat the credit market turmoil may not work. A full recovery will take time.

He also said the deepening housing slump would probably be a "significant drag" on economic growth into next year.

The composite index fell 86.78 points to 3,810.22. Decliners outnumbered gainers, 67 to 42, while 40 stocks were unchanged.

Volume totaled 5.6 billion shares worth nearly P9 billion.

"The market yesterday was indecisive. Today it was really swayed by unfounded worries over US housing and credit problems," said Jose Mesias of BDO Capital Securities.

Mesias said the market's direction is healthy correction after recent rallies that brought many stocks to overbought heights, describing index leader PLDT

The local index has pulled back since reaching a record high of 3,890.74 on Oct. 8, but analysts said it has not had any significant correction since then.

"The concern is that when the correction occurs, investors may overreact on the downside," BPI Securities said in a today note.

AFP

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NISSAN

ALI to start work on new PSE building in '08

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lizardo

PROPERTY GIANT Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) will start construction of the new headquarters of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) in 2008 at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The new building will merge the dual bourse's two separate trading floors in Tektite, Ortigas Center and Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

The new office building will cover 45,000 to 60,000 square meters to give floor area remaining of more than 30 floors, similar to the size of Tower One, home of the Makati trading floor.

At the sidelines of Tuesday night's Toronto launch, ALI chief finance officer Jaime Ysmael said the new office building would be located at the West Superblock of Fort Bonifacio Global City, near the Hyundai showroom.

Completion of the office building is targeted by 2010.

Incentive sources said the lot size of the new office building where the merged trading floor will be housed is around 4,000 square meters, nearly twice the size of a land donation by Metro Pacific Corp. to the PSE in Fort Bonifacio of 2,162 square meters.

The lot was cited by the MPC donation will be swapped by PSE with units at the new office building that ALI will build.

PSE officials need some P300 million in capital to acquire certain floors for its offices at the new building in addition to the land swap, sources said.

Aside from the merged trading floor of the PSE, the new office building can house traditional offices and business process outsourcing offices.

ALI signed in April a memorandum of agreement with the PSE and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC)—the partnership between the Ayala Corporation group and the Bases Conversion Development Authority that spearheads the master-planning of the Bonifacio Global City—on the construction of the headquarters office building.

SSS & GSIS: Investing abroad

QUESTIONS OF POLICY

Bienvenido C. Gonzalez

LET US TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT the plans of the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to invest $1 billion each abroad.

An SSS[1] says that SSS shall invest in the International Reserve Fund. Initially, this is the contributions less operating expenses and benefit payments, to earn an annual income not less than the average rate of treasury bills or any acceptable market yield indicator.

The law lists a wide variety of allowable investments, including foreign mutual funds, subject to certain restrictions provided by law.

Also, SSS is allowed to invest in "foreign currency deposits or units in foreign currency-denominated debts, prime and non-speculative equities, and other Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas approved financial instruments or other assets issued in accordance with existing laws of the countries where such financial instruments are issued," subject to certain provisions.

Finally, the SSS "may appoint fund, or, in the absence thereof, foreign fund managers to manage the investment thereof in fund, as it may deem appropriate."

The GSIS law is equally simple.

Its RIRR allows GSIS to invest "in foreign mutual funds and in foreign currency deposits or foreign currency denominated debts, non-speculative equities and other financial instruments or other assets issued in accordance with existing laws of the countries where such financial instruments are issued. Provided, that these investments or assets are listed in bourses of the respective countries where these investments or assets are issued; and, Provided, further, that the issuing company has proven a track record of profitability over the last three years and payment of dividends at least once over the same period."

There are no limits as in SSS, and this scares me.

Investing abroad is perfectly legal, as long as the premises set by law are strictly followed. Besides, since the law gives SSS and GSIS a wide variety of avenues for investments anyway, it is always desirable to diversify.

A major consideration in the return on investments is if foreign-based fund manager is not cheap. His commission is hefty and will take a large slice of earnings.

In choosing a fund manager, SSS and GSIS should seriously consider a locally-based manager, such as a life insurance company or the trust department of a local bank. These local managers may charge lower commissions and bring in higher net returns.

Also, ten $1 billion cash from SSS and GSIS is too much! I would not mind the size of these investments, but will this result in higher death, disability and pension benefits for the members? Will the funds be more accessible? SSS and GSIS should answer these questions before plunging into what looks to me as uncharted seas.

Finally, there are the inevitable political considerations. The labor sector thinks the money should be invested locally to create jobs.

It also would seem funny that the President goes around the world encouraging foreigners to invest in the Philippines, and she has been quite successful in her mission, while the two biggest pension funds in the country are traveling abroad.

Perhaps, the best way is for SSS and GSIS to reduce their foreign investment plans.

French-led group . . .

From page B1

that the plant will generate.

GH was incorporated last June 13 to serve as a special purpose company through which Suez Tractebel SA would bid for and hold the Cobro power plant. It is wholly owned by Suez Tractebel through subsidiary Belgelectric Finance BV.

Suez-Tractebel is Belgium's top utility holding company and one of the world's top independent power producers, operating in more than 300 countries on five continents.

According to PSALM, GH will only be declared the winning bidder when the accuracy, authenticity and completeness of all the submitted bid documents have been verified.

PSALM will then issue the notice of award to GH.

In a telephone interview, Deputy Secretary Asuncion Jalandoni, head of the Department of Energy's Energy Virtual One Stop Shop, said the DOE is "very supportive" of the sale of the Cobro power plant.

"This is really a good year for us. It's a great year for the country," he said, adding that the price that PSALM finalized for the Cobro plant was way beyond its expectations.

Other plants lined up for privatization within the year are the 175-MW Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant package in November and the 945.5-MW Pulangbato geothermal facility and 340.5-MW Panay diesel-fired power plant package in December.

PSALM is also preparing to bid out the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession before the end of the year.

Apart from Cobro and Mauban, PSALM has also sold eight hydropower barangay facilities, including the 3.3-MW Talomo plant in Davao, the 1.6-MW Agus mini-hydro plant in Lanao del Sur, the 0.4-MW Cawayan plant in Sorsogon, the 1.2-MW Lobo plant in Batangas, the 11.0-MW Pantabangan-Masiway package in Nueva Ecija, and the 360-MW Magat plant in Isabela.

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The Optical Media Board (OMB) embarks on this campaign in support of the Intellectual Property Rights Month this October. The OMB is tasked to regulate the manufacture of optical media as well as to issue fines and penalties for its illegal reproduction.

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Philippine Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT) is the government anti-piracy organization composed of the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Optical Media Board (OMB). PAPT actively enforces the rule of law and makes sure all lawbreakers are apprehended.

For more information, visit www.papt.org.ph

DBP eyeing ₱42.3B in ODAs for priority projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED DEVELOPMENT bank of the Philippines plans to tap P42.3 billion in fresh official development assistance (ODA) from foreign bilateral and multilateral donors to fund high-impact development projects given the growing economy's huge demand for infrastructure financing.

In a briefing yesterday, DBP president Reynaldo David said the bank had so far mobilized P569.95 billion for private sector development projects in economic—including infrastructure and logistics, small and medium enterprises, social services and various others.

The amount represents 86 percent of DBP's total loan portfolio. The remaining 14 percent went to industrial projects.

"We are on course to hitting our aims of allocating 90 percent of our total loan portfolio for development projects to support of the national government's goal of jumpstarting the economy," David said.

The country's gross domestic product, which rains up all the goods and services produced in a given period, grew at its fastest pace in 26 years in the first semester. The second quarter GDP growth was recorded at 7.3 percent following a 7.1 percent expansion in the first quarter.

The bank plans to obtain the fresh funding of P42.3 billion from ODA partners Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Asian Development Bank, Germany's KfW and the World Bank.

The bulk was expected to come from JBIC, consisting of about P36 billion for infrastructure and logistics, P5.9 billion for environment development and P910 billion for industry support.

The ADB and KfW are expected to sink in P2.23 billion each for sustainable healthcare projects while the World Bank is corresponding P1.4 billion for a rural power project.

To date, the bulk of DBP's P569.95-billion loan portfolio was devoted to the infrastructure sector. This used to be benefited from the bank's flagship project, the Nationwide Integrated Investment Program (NIIP), which aims to mobilize the infrastructure and transportation sectors through projects in three critical areas: The road toll-on roll off (RoRo) terminal system, the rural grains highway.

David said DBP had so far approved 46 projects for the NIIP amounting to P8.3 billion, with an additional 66 projects amounting to P6.161 in the pipeline.

DBP posted a net income of P1.95-billion in the first nine months of the year. It is expected to post a full-year profit of P4 billion.

Shoemart to buy out SMDC minority owners

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lanzar

SHOEMART INC., the investment firm of tycoon Henry Sy, said it would buy all the shares held by minority stockholders, equivalent to 35 percent, in affiliate residential developer SM Development Corp. (SMDC) for P5.1 billion.

Shoemart has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission a tender offer application for the buyback, said SM Investments Corp. (SMIC) executive vice president Jose Ma.

This will enable Shoemart to buy out the minority shareholders in SMDC.

The tender offer is in compliance with securities laws, which require a company acquiring at least 35 percent of a public company to make an offer to buy out the minority shareholders.

Shoemart's tender offer arises from a plan by its flagship firm SMIC to simplify its business structure.

Under the plan, SMIC will consolidate all its properties under Shoemart. SMIC's core businesses today are mall development (under SM Prime), retail (department stores, supermarkets and hypermarkets), banking (Banco de Oro and China Bank) and tourism (SMDC, Highlands Prime, SM Bay City and Manila Coast).

In an earlier agreement approved by their respective boards, SMIC will transfer to Shoemart its entire holdings in SMDC equivalent to 1.82 billion shares or 68.66 percent. Shoemart presently owns 15.6 percent in SMDC.

In exchange for these shares, SMIC will receive new shares from Shoemart.

The transaction will result in Shoemart owning 66.7 percent of SMDC, while SMIC will increase its stake in Shoemart to 67 percent from 65 percent.

SMIC officials said Shoemart is offering to buy SMDC shares at P5.95 a share to be paid in cash, much lower than the company's market price yesterday of P6.30 a piece.

Out of the remaining 35 percent non-controlling group in SMDC, about 12 percent belongs to the Sy family and 20 percent is held by the public.

JG Summit regains 17.7% stake in petrochem unit

Firm consolidates ownership of ₱1-B enterprise

By Elizabeth Sanchez Lacson

JG SUMMIT HOLDINGS INC. (JGS) acquired the 17.7-percent stake of Japanese conglomerate Mitsubishi Corp. in JG Summit Petrochemical Corp.

This will increase JG Summit's stake in its petrochemical unit to 100 percent, the company said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

Sources said the Gokongwei holding firm has consolidated the ownership in JG Summit Petrochemical "to have more flexibility in pursuing different strategic alternatives for its petrochemical business."

Sources could not give details into what those alternatives are, citing confidentiality agreements. The sources also were tight-lipped when the sources refused to disclose JG Summit's acquisition cost.

JG Summit Petrochemical's revenue decreased by 33 percent during the quarter ending in June to ₱1.37 billion, from last year's ₱2.03 billion as a result of a 16-percent drop in sales volume.

JG Summit Petrochemical's plants produce multiple grades of polyethylene and polypropylene resins, which are used to fabricate large drums, bleach bottles, shopping bags, cones, pails, pipes, films, adhesive tapes, cigarettes and candy wrappers, cosmetics, pharmaceutical and food packaging materials, heavy-duty sacks, lamination films, industrial cosmetics, pharmaceutical and food packaging materials.

The company is a core subsidiary of JG Summit, one of the largest listed conglomerates listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) with interests in property development, hotel management, textiles, banking and financial services, telecommunications, air transportation and power generation.

Last year, JG Summit said it would take as much as $475 million in loans from multilateral firms to fund a proposed naphtha cracker plant in Batangas City to produce as much as 800,000 tons of raw materials for plastic.

JG Summit president Lance Gokongwei had said the total project cost for the petrochemical project is estimated at roughly $600 million.

A naphtha cracker would boost the revenue of the group's petrochemical business to about $450 million a year from the present $150 million, Gokongwei had said.

The project would lead to the petrochemical demand of the region, particularly that of China.

Deal or noodle

BREAKTIME

Comrade Ikeda Ill

ARE THOSE MULTIBILLION-PESO machines at the gaming arcades at all? Those cargo containers? Loss and thieves bailed at "The" solution against smuggling?

For answers, my conduct in business directed me to the Senate hearing on the 2008 budget of the Bureau of Customs.

It seems that the BOC has some 15 of those X-ray machines in service since last year, disbursed straight from cash on, not again, somewhere in China.

And, according to Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales, the BOC is adding another 17 of those soon.

The Senate Finance committee wanted to know all about the new machines because, just by their maintenance, the BOC was asking a budget of ₱1.84 million.

Only for one year, mind you!

Nobody could say if the spare parts of the machines are actually made of diamonds and gold. But the senators wondered about the huge maintenance cost.

And so Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who was once a customs commissioner himself, asked Morales just how beneficial the machines were to the country.

JPE wanted to know how often smuggled were smuggled in than on, which the BOC caught and stopped, thanks to those expensive contraptions watching a suckhead free-pass deal.

Guess what? Nobody in the BOC knew!

Let me see if I get the right. While we spend hundreds of millions of pesos for the machines, plus hundreds of millions for their maintenance, we still don't know if the system was working or not. Is that it?

Good business, we do not even know how much they really cost!

NOBLE in Rhonda has it that the BOC purchase of the X-ray machines was like cash whether known as "Mano P."

The lucky guy is said to be one of the big shots of the Federation of Philippine Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc., or FFCCCII.

Our customs cold shot he also behind the ZTE contract, since he has been claiming to have close contacts with important people in China.

MINE JPE has another problem with the BOC that also involves private sector business organizations like the FFCCCII.

The case involves the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which handles the BOC's so-called automated system for customs clearance, or Ariviles.

It is actually an encoding system for import shipments with PCCI, in operation, computing actual inspection of the cargo, or just inspection of the documents, before proceeding to the cash division for outright settlement of duties and taxes.

JPE thinks it is an unnecessary encumbrance, since members of the PCCI are themselves the importers.

Then, BOC is supposed to police Ariviles. JPE notes that because of the arrangement with PCCI, the BOC is being guarded by the people that the BOC is supposed to police.

What do you know, Morales, BOC boss Morales already wrote the PCCI two years ago that the BOC was going to dissolve the arrangement. Guess its loyalty was underscored.

Of course nothing happened. The PCCI is still handling the Ariviles.

Every year, the PCCI only collects at least ₱32 million in fees from the encoding deal with the BOC.

But here's my hunch. What supersedes the encoding done by the PCCI?

Definitely you-two do "shortpay" checks on the PCCI bosses and their employees, because they are not, technically, government employees.

ALL RIGHT, in the world's biggest, quietest, greenest aircraft called Airbus A380 can actually land at both the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, or NAIA, in Manila, and at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, or DIAIA, in Clark.

That's an aircraft as tall as an eight-story building and as wide as a football field, and can carry as many as 520 to 656 passengers. The Bilugis love anything extraordinary!

To witness the event, I actually drove last Friday all the way to Angeles City upon invitation of the Clark International Airport Corp., or CIAC, operator of the DIAIA.

As everybody knows, the A-380 was on a test flight, having gone from Melbourne to Australia before coming to the Philippines, and then onward to Dubai.

Now, why on earth would the Airbus people send to land the world's most expensive airplane here in the Philippines, and even at the DIAIA, at that?

Airbus executives who attended the event including at DIAIA were the man in charge of sales for Asia-Pacific, and the head of marketing from the main office in France.

But on it that Airbus was also making a sales pitch, if not to the local airlines, at least to the traveling public.

In other words, this country is ready to be accepted for air travel.

Tristan Jose Lozano, CEO and president of CIAC, noted that there are more than 10 million Filipinos overseas, both as immigrants or OFWs, big market.

At AIC international airport, the DIAIA has barely enough of expansion of its terminal, which may be a plan for airbus.

You see, if the Airbus A-380 lives up to its promise (okay), maybe marketing line) on the dying of the fewer, airway can't be redesign can impact to be the giant A-380.

DIAIA, in other words, can design its new terminals in a way that can jive with the needs of the new generation of aircraft such as the A-380.

As I said, the airplane can accommodate more than 500 passengers. How long do you think it will take to disembark such a huge number of passengers after arriving from the airplane, going into one tube of the airport terminal? Let me guess, like forever?

The Airbus people of course talked about the "last mile and first" for their customers, which are the airline companies, saying that even with 500 passengers, the aircraft needs the same amount of time to stay at one particular airport.

Sure, but I am really talking about the convenience of passengers. How long a wait do you need to get off the airplane if you are the 520th passenger to disembark?

I am not even talking about the baggage. You don't want me to get started on that.

Guys may be good enough experts for the aircraft, but I am not sure if it is the right aircraft for our kind of airports.

Exporters cut ...

From page B1

arts included food, wood/craft and furniture, holiday decor and handicrafts.

He said these businesses account for a big part of the labor force which is dependent on exports, numbering some 3 million based on industry estimates.

Ortiz-Luis said that while the Bangko Sentral scaled down export growth this year from 11 percent to 7 percent due to the peso's rise, Senpi has enhanced down its whole year forecast to a range of 0-6 percent.

Also, Ortiz-Luis attributed the slowdown to a decrease in demand from American consumers for imported goods.

"We are hoping for the ratification of the Japan-Philippine Economic Cooperation agreement to stop the decline in exports and to drive growth next year," he said.

Ortiz-Luis said the export sector would dump further if the Senate rejected the treaty, which is expected to open up the Japanese market to agricultural products and facilitate—from consistent import visa entry.

10-yr T-bond yield down to 7.113%

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE FIELD ON THE GOVERNMENT'S 12-year treasury bonds dropped by 63.7 basis points to 7.113 percent yesterday as banks showed strong appetite for these low-risk securities.

The 10-year bonds fetched 7.75 percent in the previous auction on Aug. 22.

Side-by-side long-term debt instruments yesterday reached P9.000 billion, as against the government's offering of only P5 billion.

Of the bids, the Bureau of the Treasury auction committee accepted only P5 billion to conform to programmed borrowings.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who also serves as national treasurer, said the lower interest rate for the 10-year bonds was aligned with secondary market rates.

"It is also very much within the range recorded in the auctions of GSCDs (government securities eligible dealers)," Tan told reporters in a briefing after the auction.

The said pulling significant was sweeping the market right now, as proved by the appetite for government securities and the relatively low interest rates.

The Department of Finance is expected to reimburse the national government's budget performance for September. Tan said the market does not expect any surprise nor disappointment in today's treasury auction.

The government has set a budget deficit ceiling of P175.65 billion for September, although several estimates showed the gap might only be P11.84 billion.

The deficit program for September is consistent with the aim of keeping the budget gap for the whole year at only P65 billion. Last year's budget gap was P64.6 billion. The government is targeting balanced budget next year, which would be the first time since the Asian financial crisis in late 1990s.

The government plans to meet this goal by raising revenue collections by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs through tighter tax audit and anti-smuggling efforts.

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BUSINESS

RP posts $95-M BOP deficit

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES INCURRED A balance of payments deficit of $95 million in September, its first this year, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"The deficit in September is due mainly to payments of scheduled maturities by the national government," said BSP managing director Dyd Tuano-Amador.

But the Philippines still enjoys a surplus of $6.66 billion for the first nine months, exceeding the target surplus this year of $6.3 billion.

The strong BOP position has contributed to the appreciation of the peso by 10 percent since the start of the year, making the local currency the second best performing in developing Asia next to the Indian rupee.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the Philippines and the rest of the world.

Surplus items include remittances, exports and remittances, while deficit items include imports and debt servicing.

Based on the latest data from the BSP, money sent home by overseas Filipinos through the banking system surged by 10.6 percent to $10.3 billion from a year ago to be $11.3 billion.

The year-on-year growth in dollars was faster than the 4.64 percent growth in July and brought total inflows for the eight-month period to $91.3 billion, 15.3 percent better than the remittances in the comparable last year.

It also marked the 14th straight month that overseas remittances exceeded the $1 billion mark.

In September, the Philippines was also able to lure back $56.2 billion to local stocks and bonds, a turnaround from the $166.4 million in net outflows seen in August as the height of the global financial market volatility caused by the US credit crunch.

This brought total net inflows in the first nine months to $3.4 billion.

This developed as the US Fed's reduction in its benchmark rate by a steeper than-expected 50 basis points last Sept. 18 revived global investors' appetite for stocks is strengthening markets like the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the country's strong BOP position for the nine month period despite the vast deficit for month also reflected the expansion in the country's gross international reserves to an all-time high of $37.7 billion at end-September due to the resurgence of foreign "hot money" inflows that allowed the BSP to remain in dollar purchases to temper the peso's sharp appreciation.

The GIR is a key indicator of a country's ability to cover the foreign exchange requirements of its monetary.

This comes the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights from multilateral institutions like the International Monetary Fund.

Gov't plans to raise domestic borrowings

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE GOVERNMENT MAY INcrease its domestic borrowings next year, according to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

This is in response to the call of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the national government to trim its foreign borrowings to prevent the peso from appreciating further.

The call from the BSP came amid complaints from the country's exporters that the appreciating peso had led to huge losses.

"The government is not encouraging foreign borrowings over time, though we are looking into the proposal of sourcing more financing from domestic sources to help stem the sharp peso appreciation and partially address the concerns of exporters," Teves said in a statement.

Under the supposed 2008 borrowing program, 64 percent or P269.7 billion will come from domestic sources and the remaining P125.4 billion will come from foreign sources.

But Teves said the DOF was open to amending the program to respond to the BSP's call and possibly increase the share of domestic borrowings to 70 percent.

"We will try to strike a balance between the need to help stabilize the peso and our own borrowing program, based on opportunities that are presented to us. We will ensure that whatever action we'll take will be on the net neutral or advantageous to the government," Teves said.

The BSP wants the share of foreign debt cut because borrowings from abroad feed up the country's dollar reserves, which in turn help the peso appreciate to the current source to near highs.

The government by borrowing 64 to a dollar, much stronger than the 40:$1 to 54:$1 few months by economic managers when they crafted the fiscal program for 2007.

The strengthening of the peso is credited largely to huge dollar inflows from the eight million overseas Filipino workers and foreign investments.

The appreciation of the peso makes Philippine-made goods more expensive, therefore making Filipino exporters less competitive.

But the rise in the peso has its economic benefits, too.

A stronger peso trims the cost of foreign borrowings, and the savings can be used to beef up spending for social services and infrastructure development.

A rise in the peso also tempers the increase in overall consumer prices, as it lowers the cost of imported goods, which helps increase the consumers' purchasing power.

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Ellie Cesar D. Mangawang
MOTORING

Dad's car no more

Volvo's next big thing is small, and it's here (in case you haven't noticed yet)

SUPERSWING Lucky to use Volvo courses with silver-sedan sport coupe with reserved dual-disc C30's personality

BLIS (blind-spot information system) mirror ensures ignorance is bliss in driving

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

SOMETIMES, THE good things in life come in tiny packages, and that less is normally more. Ask Volvo now about its surprise "pocket rocket" entry in the fuel-trouble premium hatch market, and you will get a sweary but pretty sporty coupe loaded with luxury-car amenities.

It's the C30 sports coupe, and it's a best piece of just nearly P1.7 million, if you look exclusive of the Volvo car line-up.

Most fashionable

It's also the most fashionable among the Volvo lineup. One of the designers—Englishman Steve Mattin—once said "it may be the smallest Volvo but it has the broadest shoulders and the most expressive style. In fact, from rear shoulders are so big that they stretch the limits of what's capable with metal stamping. We could not have gone any bigger."

It may be 22 cm shorter than the erstwhile entry level S40, but its styling may have gone back a long way. Old timers remember the iconic Volvo 1,800 ES Sport Wagon. Move down to the old "Pac Man" TS series whenever they see the C30 particularly the rear.

The front looks a modern Volvo though—this time S40 or the V50 wagon, but the rear is head-turning. Its all-glass hatch follows a "plunging" back line, its taillights are particularly mesmerizing at night.

C-30 Special Edition

This writer was given the opportunity to drive the C30 Special Edition with a 2.4-liter, 5-cylinder double overhead cam 20-valve unit and a 17-inch 2-tone wheels. (The other model, which this writer didn't get to try was the C30 TS, 2.5-liter turbo engine with sleek rocker). The car started from the mid-level traffic of Makati and through continuing GLEX widening works, up to the winding, narrow country roads of Tagaytay, and then back.

Does this 2.4-liter tyke like the chilly midnight winds of Tagaytay? Well, no. It still felt like a loaded, luxury European car, especially during stop-and-go traffic. You can't do a "Jazz" zip from one lane to another with this car. The

(MOTORING, B3)

WINDSHIELD
CRACK REPAIR
NOT REPLACEMENT! EMISSION CTR2
MANILA MIDWEST

To celebrate Toyota's achievement of selling 500,000 vehicles, we are giving you the chance to be one of 5 lucky winners of

₱500,000 CASHBACK

when you buy any Toyota vehicle from your dealer this October!

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TOYOTA 500 THOUSAND

TOYOTA moving forward

Toyota breaches over 500,000 unit sales level

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORP. marks another significant milestone in its history as it rolls over 500,000 units after 39 years of operations. It is the first car manufacturer in the Philippine automotive industry to achieve such feat.

Since its founding, TMP has always aimed to satisfy its customer's diverse needs. Under the guiding principle, the Toyota Way, the five pillars of continuous improvement and respect for people have always been TMP's mission. It has proven to be effective for the company as it has existed in place in being the market leader.

Sincerest gratitude

"In 1988, Toyota dreamt of becoming the biggest car company in the country. In the last 19 years, we have seen Toyotas struggle to realize that dream. Here we celebrate a viable 500,000 vehicles sold. It is no small accomplishment, even for one of the world's largest car manufacturers. As we celebrate this milestone, we want to express our sincerest gratitude to the hundreds and thousands of Filipinos who have given us their trust and confidence," TMP Vice Chair Alfred Ty expressed in a statement.

The favorable position of TMP in the automotive industry inspires the company to strive harder. The loyalty and trust of its customers motivates it to keep moving forward.

TMP's President Hiroshi Ito stated: "Each vehicle represents the confidence of a more progressive Philippine economy. Over the past 19 years, we have invested over P20 billion, established one manufacturing plant, two assembly plants, a state-of-the-art parts distribution center, and a network of 70 dealerships and 200 service outlets. Our investments, our employees, our dealers and our suppliers have contributed to the growth of the Philippine economy. Over the past 19 years, we have also contributed over P10 billion in duties and tax revenues, created jobs for over 12,000 employees for the whole Toyota group, and generated over US$2.5 billion in parts export."

Aware of its responsibility

As TMP has been the leader in the industry, it is aware of its responsibilities to the customers, to provide excellent products and customer service.

"Our customers inspire us to achieve greater success—to surpass 17 years of market dominance... to provide the highest level of customer service in all of 24 outlets nationwide... To continually improve and redefine our current line of 21 products. Our dedication to work nature to serve better, expand further so that we can be closer to our consumers. Because the things they value most in life are at the heart of our vehicles, of our operation," he added in the statement.

All of these developments are a sure testimony for TMP's constant expansion. It is on its way to the roads of the future through developing more innovative technologies while continuously improving the manufacturing technologies of today.

Along these lines, Ito said that the milestone of selling 500,000 units is merely an inspiration for TMP that is committed to ensure service and customer satisfaction as what makes it a well-respected company.

Just the beginning

"The 500,000 sales milestone celebration is just the beginning. As we remain dedicated in building a better future for people, society and the planet we live in, you can embrace to count on us to drive harder to take you from where you are, to where you want to be. For every Toyota vehicle sold in the past and years to come, we will be giving the same promise every single unit of our products, one embossed in a shine.

More than just a celebration of sales figures, this is a celebration that dreams can be achievable. Allow us to dream of tomorrow's possibilities, of greater potentials' than what we have on 19 years ago. Tonight, we promise that every Toyota vehicle sold will see customers through their own achievement and help them realize their own dreams of a brighter future, of a better life," Ito concluded in his official statement for Toyota's commitment for the future.

Motorshow Cebu International opens

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING AUTOmotive firms spearheaded the opening of car industry stakeholders in the much-awaited Motorshow Cebu International which opened at the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) yesterday and will run until Oct. 21.

Those who graced the ribbon-cutting and opening ceremonies were Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia, Mayor Jonas Cortes of Mandaue City, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Francis Gothong, Department of Tourism regional director Jovenia Roa and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry past president Jose Luis Yulo Jr.

Cebu auto industry

Officials representatives of Toyota, Isuzu, Hyundai and Kia Motors in Cebu have all signed up for the expo to showcase transportation devices that highlights the vibrant and dynamic Cebu auto industry. Companies representing the automotive industry include SignetPowers Services, Toyota Cebu Inc., Isuzu Cebu Inc., Hyundai Cebu Inc. and Kia Motors Cebu.

The opening and ribbon cutting ceremonies were held at the CICC Cebu lobby and was immediately followed by a media preview of the exhibits. Judging for the best in three categories will be held today while judging for the 'Best Oriental' Bike and Chinese will start tomorrow.

Highlights

Among the highlights of the Cebu Motorshow are the Motorshow Idols, the People's Choice Car Awards for the most popular displays, and the radio-controlled (RC) racer sponsored by the RC Car Racing Club of Cebu. Cubao Expo and other sponsor for the Outlaw Autocross Race at the CICC parking lot.

On Saturday, the first Motorshow Cebu Formula Hunt and Adventure Run, sponsored by 98.5 Star 98.5, will be held in Metro Cebu from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. while on Sunday, the last day of the six-day event, the Best Motorshow Cebu Car Clubs Meet and Bike Clubs Show will be staged in the CICC parking lot from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grand exhibition

Attended by thousands of spectators annually, the Motorshow was first opened in Cebu in 1999. Since then, it has steadily evolved into a grand exhibition that brings together top automakers, automotive dealers, parts and accessories retailers and fabricators, aftermarket service outfits and other transport stakeholders.

Aside from its extensive displays of automobiles, motorcycles, trailers, body kits and related products, equipment and services, Motorshow Cebu International will also showcase the Philippines' commitment to providing environmentally and cost-efficient hybrid and eVehicles, engine improvements and fuel efficiency devices.

Cooperating agencies include the departments of Transportation and Communication and Trade and Industry, Land Transportation Office, Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Provincial Government of Cebu, Mandaue City and Cebu.

TRANSPORT TRIVIA

By Enrique Cura

Record holders, anyone?

– Smallest car

The Smart car is believed to be the smallest car currently in production made by Daimler-Benz. It has an entire length of just under 2.5 m (8 ft 4 inches), beating its closest rival, the Rover Mini, by 30 cm (11 ft 8 inches). The two-seater car has removable body panels made out of plastic.

However, records show that the smallest car ever produced was the Peel P50 constructed by the Peel engineering company in 1962 in the Isle of Man, British Isles. It was 1.37 m (4 ft 6 in) long, 99 cm (3 ft 3 inches) wide, 1.14 m (3 ft 9 inches) tall and weighed 59 kg (130 lb).

– Cheapest car

It was the 1931 Ford Bug Bodyboard built by the Briggs and Stratton Co. in Milwaukee, United States. It was on the market for $128 (P6,144). This would be the same as $1,749.40 (P83,971) in 1999.

– Lightest car

Cotton weight? Of course not. The world's lightest real car was built by Louis Rose of London, United Kingdom, and weighs 9.3 kg (22 lb). It has a 2.5 cc engine and believed to hit a maximum of 25 km (15 mi) per hour.

– Heaviest car

The Soviet built 24-4140[2] limousine which has a 7.46 m (22 ft 9 inches) wheel base and weighing 8,328 kilo is the heaviest car (in current production) on record. A "stretched" ZIL of which only two or three were produced (models), was used by former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev. It weighed 8 tons and used 75 liter (3 inches) cannon planted used for protection.

– Biggest car

The biggest car ever to be produced for private use was the Bugatti "Royale" type 41, built in France, by Bugatti in 1927. The car has an 8-cylinder engine, a 12.7-liter capacity and a mass then 12 ft long.

Reference: http://www.ak-carcom/gunwen

THE SMART car

Dad's car no more

Front page Ref.)

doors for this "strong body" feel heavy despite the car's compact look.

'Third eye'

But the C30, in one case, has a "magic" trick up its sleeve. It gives you a "third eye" in your driver. The Blind Spot Information System in former standard on this special edition only, or $US, puts rear-facing cameras in the door mirrors that detect vehicles moving in the driver's blind spot and alert him or her of their presence.

$US indicators are installed on the right and left front doors, aligned to release the side-view mirrors are to the driver could easily see the orange indicator lights on.

When the orange lights are on, it means vehicles at either the left or right side are approaching. It is a fast-warning—and useful—safety addition to the numerous C30 safety features already known for pulling vehicle safety at a premium. It certainly aided this writer several times in shifting lots of motorcyclists "crawling" up beside him.

A word of caution, though: Nothing still beats actually looking to your left or right to check for the presence of vehicles before you pass or change lanes.

FREE FLOATING controls

Besides the active safety standards such as ABS, emergency brake assistance and dynamic stability and traction control (each signed from a Volvo vehicle, not to mention intelligent airbags with two stages, the C30 also comes equipped with a safety cage and crumple zones to help protect occupant loads.

Power features

Adding to the "bodyshell" of the C30 are a bevy of power features: power front seats for each and added rear passengers; power windows with one-touch for three separate settings; power sunroof, cruise controls, Bluetooth hands-free system, rain sensors, park assist (rear sensors) and fog/rear fog lights.

And when you get to feel the interior—the ceiling, seats, side doors panels and the dashboard—you know Volvo did not scrimp on materials. The fabrics are not cheap. Volvo boasts that its upholstery and textiles comply with the international Oeko Tex Standard 100, meaning the materials used have been tested against over 100 harmful substances. Likewise, interior metal details such as the key, door handles and safety belt buckles comply with the safety standards by such of tasks as high-quality jewelry carried ing to the open drawer).

In two full-sized rear seats have a holding at most two adults, to the designer put it, "the lounge either."

Fire ride

The ride is firm but not stiff. Though the C30 was designed to carry just four adults, this writer tried to squeeze in four small- to medium-sized companions during the September 11 media test ride. Why? They actually fit (That's the Finns "keep-it-simple" mentality for you, making use of every available space). But this sets just a short trip. Long drives in such cramped quarters are not recommended.

For good measure, this C30 was tested on unpaved roads as well....on the western country trail to Silang, Cavite, leading to the Big Blasta Shoot-'Em-Guns. The C30's footwear in these conditions was nonetheless.

Young urbanites with active lifestyles will almost surely consider the C30 among their options. And with optional additions...like load restraint, roof boxes, surfboard or bicycle racks, and an i-Pod adaptable audio system....to complete the look, sound and feel. And, there's really no need to reach the destination short quickly lines and side can be a bit of fun, too.

YOKOHAMA

We'll take you to the

54th Macau Grand Prix!

Fast Lane to the Grand Prix

Witness breathtaking speed and standstill exercises in Macau this November. Yokohama Tire officially tire supplier for the 54th Macau Grand Prix, is giving away an all-expenses-paid trip to witness the action in.

Grand prize includes roundtrip air fare to Macau, hotel accommodations while inside (November 17-20, 2007) and VIP passes to the biggest motoring event in the east.

Yokohama: Tires to power your life. Tires to drive you to Macau.

Promo runs from September 1 to October 31, 2007. See posters for details.

THE 2007 Veracruz, Hyundai's luxurious crossover utility vehicle.

REAR view of the Veracruz reminds you of the Lexus RX 350

Hyundai crosses over to premium class

ON THE ROAD

Jude Sevilla-Mendoza

TALK ABOUT CULTURAL HYUNDAI Motor Co. showed plenty of it when it introduced the Veracruz, a Lexus RX350 look-alike in the car-based luxury utility vehicle segment. The Korean member's largest and most upscale crossover following the sudden boom for and the compact Tucson, the Veracruz was described at launch by Hyundai Vice Chair and CEO Kim Dong Jin, as the springboard for the company to democratize an unpublished to produce premium-class vehicles.

The Veracruz, to that, has been compared favorably with the Lexus RX350 by a couple of car magazines although the Honda Pilot and Nissan Murano are its more likely competitors. With its sculpted front bumper, wraparound projection-type HID headlamps, accenting foglights and rounded fenderglare, the Veracruz is a dead ringer for the Lexus RX350, which costs about $1,000 more in the United States.

V6 CRDi

Designed with the Accentee US MTP market in mind, the Veracruz sold in North America has a gasoline V6 engine because diesel vehicles are not popular there. Over here, where common rail direct injection (CRDi) diesel engine technology has gained wide acceptance, the seven-seater Veracruz GLS AWD fielded by Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. is propelled by a 3.8 liter V6 24-valve CRDi engine paired to a responsive six-speed automatic transmission. Peak output is rated at 246 ps/3,800 rpm and max torque at 493 Nm on tap between 1,750 rpm and 3,500 rpm.

Driving the Veracruz on the highway you will notice that it delivers power smoothly and almost as quietly as a gasoline V6, with no turbo lag. The engine offers 493 N-m high power CRDi system with 1,600 bar max fuel pressure using Piezo type injector and a variable-vane geometry six-to-one intercooled turbocharger. The advantages of Hyundai's cutting-edge CRDi technology and turbo keeps boost rate considered impressively for the Veracruz's performance.

Steering the Veracruz is light and easy, what with its hydraulic power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering. The steering ratio quality is attributed to the three-Parcon recirculating-ball system with total settings, reverse U-shaped lower arms and stabilizer bar, and front with independent coil springs rear arrangement plus gas-type shock absorbers here and aft.

4WD lock

When the going gets slippery or rough, you simply have to press the 4WD lock button on the dash located above the ESP (Electronic Stability Program) button. A rear-based crossover marketed as "The True CUV" the Veracruz does not pretend to be a genuine off-roader capable of crossing mudpits and traveling over boulders. Hyundai, for that matter, has no plans to venture into body-based SUV or pickup territory.

The Veracruz's credentials for the luxury crossover segment are obvious in its well-appointed, spacious cabin with soft-touch, high-quality materials and low-gloss surfaces—dark tan leather seats, brushed metal accents, wood trim and blue backlighting for all interior gauges, switches and buttons. The center stack houses easy-to-understand, user-friendly function knobs and buttons.

7 seats

The ludicrously third-row seat, which folds flat into the floor to increase cargo volume, makes comfortable seating for seven adults possible. The power liftgate gives easy access to the cargo area. The Veracruz's smart key allows you to lock and unlock the doors without having to press buttons or insert the key, as long as you have it in your pocket or purse. The driver's seat is 10-way power-adjustable with an integrated memory system.

Outside noise is isolated by several dampening sheets in the doors and underbody five layers of carpet padding and a steel plate beneath the engine. The

ELEGANT ergonomic rust-leather, wood trim and brushed metal accents

THE VERACRUZ's 3.8-liter, V6 CRDi powerplant

THE 3RD row seat is fold flat into the floor for more cargo volume

electronically controlled engine mounts and carbon hood insulation help reduce engine noise. The drivetrain electronic with entry at the rear and third-row seats.

Infinity audio

Predictably, the Infinity audio system with 6-disc in-dash CD changer, eight speakers, 8-inch subwoofer and external amplifier rounded out its premium in the unit I test-drove. The power tilting and telescopic leather-wrapped steering wheel has audio controls and switch cruise control system, and a-digital active headrests, 4-wheel disc brakes with CBD, rain-sensing wipers and Tire Pressure Monitoring System. It was awarded the top five-star ratings by the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) in the frontal and side-impact crash tests and four stars in the rollover test.

Bottom line, the P2.798 million Veracruz is worth considering if you are in the market for a V6 CRDi luxury crossover.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: All that glitters has a high refractive index.

Pursuing outdoor adventures with the Global D-Max

By Charles E. Bulos

FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL motoring media, an invitation to an Isuzu Philippines event would mean shedding a lot of stress and canvassing your brain cells.

Last week's event was no different as the world's largest diesel engine maker organized the Isuzu Global D-Max Mettal to the-Pedal Challenge, a one day event held at the Tagaytay Midlands in Cavite.

IPC divided its participants, into several teams each of which was required to earn points from a series of number of timed challenges including driving the latest Global D-Max from one station to the next (manual just to spill the water on the pitcher placed in the hood), solving the Isuzu trouble truck emission effect, mountain biking on Tagaytay Midland's uphill and downhill terrain, hotlap (not a team fix a punctured tire and how quickly a team could do so), and mount and mount the mounting bike on the Trade Silverado truck.

To do all these challenges, IPC partnered with Appsbee Optics, Trade SEE and Blade which sponsored the game participants and during the event.

Points deducted

Whatever, at each team rated to earn points, the organizers deducted points to those who broke the game and traffic rules, or those who arrived late or too early to the station.

When the day ended and points computed, the team composed of Manila Bulletin's Auto Pitch, Daily Tribune's Jesse Edwards and this writer, finished second.

The top prize went to the team of Top Gear Magazine's Vernon Stoner and Business Television's Pedro Infante while third place went to the team of Auto Review's Jesse de los Reyes and Ronald Rey de los Reyes and Business Mirror's Andy Sevilla.

WINNERS of the Isuzu Global D-Max Mettal-to-the-Pedal Challenge.

Perfect companion

"We thought of this event—incorporating the mountain bike competition into the driving skills challenges—to show everyone how capable the Global D-Max is and how this pickup can become a perfect companion for those who want to pursue an active outdoor lifestyle," IPC Vice President for corporate business Art Edmund said.

He also added that the mountain bike competition environment-friendliness that IPC has been pursuing with every product it develops.

Known for its rugged and extreme-terrain adventure, IPC decided to capture the Global D-Max Mettal-to-the-Pedal Challenge in order to attract younger market.

"We at IPC would like to point out that the D-Max is not just a pickup for business use—it could also be a fun pickup that could of course could bring anywhere they would want to go," IPC president Jesse Tabeda said.

Add a roof rack

Tabeda added that owners can just add a roof rack where they could easily attach necessary bike, kayak and other gears.

"The steep climbs and deep drops of Tagaytay Midlands clearly showed how tough the Global D-Max's new 3.0-liter common-rail direct injection diesel engine (with turbo intercooler) that produces a maximum output of 144.15 horsepower and a maximum torque of 294 Newton-meters. These are useful especially if you want to go out of town to pursue your hobbies," he said.

Also the high-end LS version of the Global D-Max features a Pioneer in-dash CD/MP3 player with USB and iPod connectivity, no matter driving experience more fun.

Incidentally, before the event concluded, the participants also got a glimpse of IPC's upcoming 4x4 version of the Global D-Max.

To be officially launched in a few weeks, IPC emphasized that the Global D-Max 4x4 off-road capability should be a welcome sight for those looking for a pickup that they could bring almost anywhere.

THE RECENT Isuzu event showed that its Global D-Max is not just for business use but also for providing recreational activities.

JUST add a roof rack and any D-Max owner could enjoy his or her favorite outdoor hobby.

25 "To be you" LIFESTYLE

Editor-Chief: Blanca Fernandez
Chief of Correspondents: Pam Pura

FREP SCHOOL. Classic rugby shirts can be worn anywhere.

Life in the fast lane

Make way for young athletes Gaby de la Merced and Tyson Sy, Puma's newest endorsers

Text by Bianca Cuenca
24/7 Correspondent
Photos by Ryan Fernandez

MALE CHAUVINIST pigs—the ones who blame car accidents and traffic pileups on female drivers—will be horrified to know that some of the country's best racers are actually women.

Although most of the country's international standout racers (for karting and Formula 3, among others) are still male, an increasing number of women are making themselves known in different racing circuits here and abroad.

Twenty-five-year-old Gaby de la Merced is perhaps one of the best-known in the country and for all sorts of reasons. She entered racing several years ago and went on to become the only Filipina to finish a full season on the Asian Formula 3 Series, eventually handing first runner-up to the Philippine luminary I

LIFE 22

Goldilocks
Meals to Share

Meal 1
P449
Pulabok (small bilao)
8 pcs. Siomai
8 pcs. Pare
4 slices of Cake Roll
4 servings of ice cold Coca-Cola (355ml)
SAVE P7

Meal 2
P469
2 servings of Calderetta
4 sticks of Pork BBQ
4 pcs. Fresh Lumpia (Party Size)
4 cups of rice
4 slices of Cake Roll
4 servings of ice cold Coca-Cola (355ml)
SAVE P67

Meal 3
P489
3 pcs. Pinoy-Style Fried Chicken
12 pcs. Lumpiang Shanghai
4 pcs. Fresh Lumpia
4 cups of rice
4 slices of Cake Roll
4 servings of ice cold Coca-Cola (355ml)
SAVE P76

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ON THE RUN: Grab a large bag, throw on a cool track suit...and you're good to go.

Life in the fast lane

From page C1

National Championship. For her achievements, Jet la Merced was cited as one of Marie Claire magazine's Women of the World awardees in 2006.

Although she already had several commercials and product endorsements under her belt, it was Jet la Merced's entry for FUBU that really caught the public eye. While she primarily agreed to do the shoot, Jet felt bored (euphemism) when she was a mere flirt and bemused, not really an actress.

"I told it on the condition that I wasn't going to wear Georgeous Lee outfits," she said. "Sure it helped raise awareness about female racers."

"When my friends called me up to dedicate, asking why I posed for the series, I asked them if they already read it," she said. "Then I asked them to get back to me when they finished reading."

Jet la Merced is also currently one of the housemates in the second celebrity edition of "Pinoy Big Brother," dubbed as the "way speed demons" and the "extreme-sports family." Aside from racing, she also dabbles in Big Football (until recently, she caught the sport in Miriam College girls' school) and Dynamo Hockey. However, she admits that cars still always be her first passion.

"I want more people to be aware about racing," she said. "It would be nice to show them that it's not just a crazy sport. And of course, that girls don't have to be bonbon pareo to drive cars."

It is for her passion for racing that sports and lifestyle brand Puma has tapped her to be one of its endorsers, along with multi-awarded racer Tyron Ay, who won 2006's Asian Formula 3 Driver of the Year. Twenty-year-old Ay, the youngest Filipino to compete in the Macau Grand Prix, recently joined Puma's roster of young athletes chosen to represent the brand.

WALK on the wild side with a track jacket, boots and boots.

A high-school student at the Inter Asia School, Ay has won competitions in Indonesia, China, Japan and Malaysia, among others. However, when he's off the race track, he prefers to dress in comfortable jeans and hoody shirts.

"I like the design and the feel of the clothes," Ay said. "They're very comfortable, but stylish and casual at the same time."

Although Puma used to be known mainly for its sports apparel, it recently launched a new line of clothes suitable for wearing off the court (or in this case, the track). The brand introduced "70s vintage-inspired gear to its lineup this season, focusing on retro prints and silhouettes.

Drawing inspiration from the heyday of motor sports, Puma offers shirts, jackets, and accessories decorated with lines of stripe and tips. Pinstripes can also opt to wear old-car track suits that were in vogue back in the '70s, as well as casual leather bags, knee-high boots and suede sneakers.

E-mail the author at lianacastro@yahoo.com

Find the photographer at http://dedmcdonald.multiply.com

GO PASTEL GO: In a strange grandma routine or opt for shirt and suit leather dress.

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Easily, intimately and especially for you

HP iPAQ 112 Classic Handheld

By Tammy David
Correspondent

Hewlett-Packard introduces improved printers and its first smart phone

While others fear and loathe their BFF of summer '08 collection showcased in fashion weeks around the globe, it's clear that fans of the year when fashionistas are going through the 'trees have synchronic." When the tech world releases new products in time for the Christmas season.

Hewlett-Packard (HP), global leader in lifestyle and professional computing, recently launched its Fall '07 lineup during the annual HP Blog Ring, which had the theme "Intimately Yes."

The lineup showcased a number of HP's best-selling printers, digital cameras (Photo and HP's first smart phone, the iPAQ, which will surely have both fashion geeks and techno-freaks a-mad for some clever tech live to a beat beat.

Intimately cool

Some of the many highlights of the HP Blog Ring were the six additional desktop and inkjet printers that will surely spice up your printouts and workstations. With the latest features, users can expect an easy, reliable and intimate printing experience.

HP iPAQ 612 Business Navigator

No more hello dongle that eat up space. With the one-touch button, to start unplugging to short print speeds and lower the cost of printing for high-volume commercial markets, making it easier to print from the web through new initiatives to enhance print functionality for websites and bringing new print capabilities to online properties, and lastly extend the company's digital content creation and publishing platforms...for example, Snapfish and Legoworks—across consumer segments, spanning from consumers to enterprises."

Smart phone

Apart from the printers, HP unveiled five new iPaqs...for more in the company's history—for users "to experience true mobile personal and professional connectivity": the iPAQ 912 Business Messenger, iPAQ 612 Business Navigator, iPAQ 212 Enterprise Handheld and HP iPAQ 112 Classic Handheld.

Gadget lovers and loyal iPAQ users can enjoy the latest 3G converged handhelds and traditional pen-based personal digital assistants (PDAs), as well as a personal navigation device all equipped with Microsoft Mobile 6, to suit their fast paced life. The HP iPAQs are expected to be locally available beginning in November 2007.

Green technology

Not only is HP updated and moving forward with its product lineup, it also active in promoting the best trend of the year, saving the environment with the Green Technology.

"Our green technology supports recycled paper. We have a listing of recycled paper that we support. With our cartridges, we have a recycling program. We introduced 'Planet Partner' Lotus 1992) program for our more valuable customers, corporate enterprise whereas we encourage customers to return cartridges and boxes for recycling. Upto 90 percent are recycled today of those materials are recycled today It's part of our contribution to environmental friendliness," said Margaret Ong of HP Imaging & Printing Group Southeast Asia.

"Toners are not recycled in the sense they are reused. They are dismantled and made into other products like buttons or plastic containers. When we manufacture the cartridges we already have that environmental goal in my mind," said Jenny Soto-Esposoo of HP Philippines.

Prices are subject to change. Visit www.hp.com.

E-mail tammydavid@gmail.com

MARGARET Ong, vice president, HP Imaging & Printing Group Southeast Asia

HP iPAQ 912 Business Messenger

Who do you want to thank?

IN CELEBRATION OF National Thank You Day, Teleleone is holding a special Thank You Day concert at the SM Mall of Asia on Oct. 20.

Expect performances from your favorite musical acts including Cynthia Alexander, Hale, Francis M, Bamboo, Reggae Mistress.

Because 2B13 wants to help push the importance of being grateful, we want to ask you three questions:

Who do you want to thank and how would you thank them?

The first 200 participants will receive special Thank You Day Cits.

E-mail thankyou-day@pippinsmail.com. Visit www.thankyou-day@pippins.com

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V803

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Alumnus ascendant

ADMCOT's winning design

By Nino Mark H. Sablan
Philippine Star

WHEN JEROME LORICO WAS announced last year as the first-ever Animax Fashion Ability, a fashion-design competition inspired by a particular anime series from the cable channel, a lot of doors naturally opened for him.

Not only was he able to join the 2007 Philippine Fashion Week, the 23-year-old designer also got to participate in the annual Philippine Fashion Design Competition as one of the Top 10 finalists.

Originally, the Top 10 entries produced by the competition were supposed to represent the country in Paris, France, for the Concours Internationaux Des Jeunes Createurs De Mode. Unfortunately, sponsors for the event this year have withdrawn their support, consequently putting an end to a more than 20-year tradition of healthy fashion competition among different countries.

Other countries, though, have put up similar events. Japan's International Fashion Design Competition for instance, is attracting young fashion talents all over the world—including Lorico.

"Because of this, it sparked hope for a young designer like me to finally have the chance to showcase Filipino talent in the international fashion arena," he says.

After he was seconded by the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines as the country's representative, Lorico's series of consultations for the International Fashion Design Competition in Japan improved until Lorico's work, the Japan screening committee selected the designer to represent the Philippines in the final competition (63_ZOO-Tokyo, Japan.

While it's a great honor for Lorico, it also posed a big problem since the designer didn't have the means to shoulder his airfare ticket. But driven by his dream, he knocked on the door of Animax...and wasn't disappointed.

Convinced on youth empowerment, Animax didn't think twice about helping Lorico, a product of their first-ever Fashion-Ability competition.

"I'm really happy and grateful to Animax since I wasn't expecting that huge support would still come from them after the Fashion-Ability competition," shares Lorico.

"And even then I knew they would encounter big hassle, they are still there to back me up all the way. I thought their support would stop right after the competition, but surprisingly they are still devoted to support me in this new challenge that I am about to face. It is great since they've become a second family to me. I know they understand what I've been going through as a young and struggling designer."

Fashion-Ability, Year 1

Lorico is a perfect example of how effective and benefits of talent searches are, just like fashion-ability. This is why Animax has decided to hold your two of its very successful interschool competition for student designers.

The time, the theme is the style characters love show, "Le Chevalier D'Eon," an exciting fantasy series set in France during the 18th century. Designs should demonstrate the charm of French-inspired couture, be they gowns, petticoats or pantoons. But instead of the long, elegant gowns seen in the animated series, designs should be modern and wearable enough for today's teenagers.

To join, submit sketches of the front and back designs of an outfit. Entries are open for submission Dec. 31-Dec. 12.

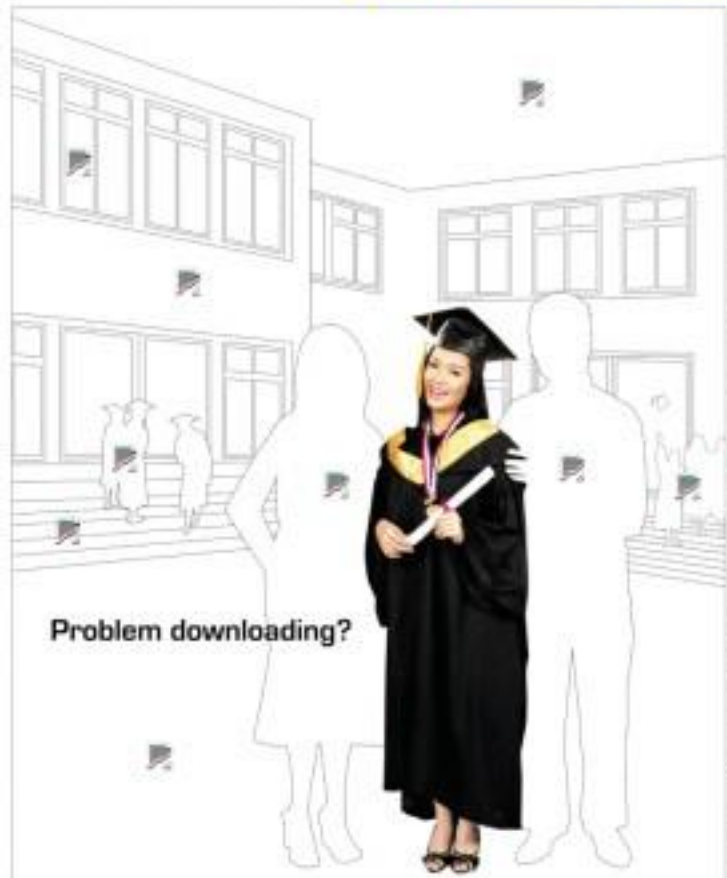
Next, all the entries, 20 finalists will be chosen and announced on Dec. 14. These finalists will then breathe their designs into actual clothes to be modeled at a fashion show. All designs will also be displayed on a website for voting by viewers.

The grand finale on Feb. 24, 2008, will choose a grand champion and two runners-up who will get educational grants, cellphone and laptop goodies.

Interested individuals can log in to Animax on Nov. 5 to catch the premiere of "Le Chevalier D'Eon" at 8:30 p.m. and get inspiration from the animated show's characters.

This story has been updated to include Jerome Lorico's credentials as a student-designer.

Youth channel Animax lends all-out support to Tokyo-bound Filipino designer Jerome Lorico, a product of its own fashion-design competition



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ANIMAX grants top winner Jerome Lorico cash prize, educational grant and a surprise bonus prize a year after he won.

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Champions once more

The 73-64 win in game two of the UAAP Men's Basketball not only gave the De La Salle Green Archers the top prize, but also made it clear that they were back

Text by Patrick Leonard M. Maya
INQ7 Correspondent
Photos by Ryan E. Lim

TWO WORDS THAT BEST describe the comeback season of the De La Salle Green Archers in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) Men's Basketball scene this year: vindication and validation.

Vindication from the suspension they received last year that barred them from the tournament, and validation for once again entering college basketball supremacy by sweeping a heavily favored University of the East Red Warriors squad in the finals.

Their monumental comeback began a year ago when they were reassured by their undefeated coach, Franz Pumaren, in rigorous training and involvement in various pre-season and off-season tournaments, like the Nike Summer League and 7/11 Gilt Flying V Pre-season Tournament.

They finished champions in both contests, against powerhouse college basketball teams coming from the UAAP, NCAA and other collegiate associations across the country.

Before the start of the UAAP season, the Archers were one of the favorites to make it to the Final Four, if not the championship. But their road to the top turned out to be a roller coaster ride.

First, they lost their blue chip Serbian rookie Marko Bankovic to an ACL knee injury during the Nike Summer League. And as the unpredictable season rolled, they began with a strong 5-0 start, setting the stage for a showdown with eventual finalists the UE Red Warriors who were also sporting a similar 5-0 card.

Touted as a preview of a potential finals match-up, the game was close in the first three quarters until the fierce-hazed rogers pulled away in the fourth, en route to a 99-78 thrashing of the Green Archers, giving La Salle its first defeat of the season.

Their next game was a highly anticipated one as they met their blood rivals, the fearsome Blue Eagles, for the first time in two years. As predicted, the game was tightly contested up to the final buzzer, and when the smoke cleared, the Archers found themselves, bruising to their unbeaten, 77-80, for their second straight setback.

Finding themselves in the middle of the team standings, the Green Archers regrouped and won six of their next seven games to boost their Final Four bid for a twice-to-beat advantage to boot. But as the eliminations neared the climax, they once more dropped their last two games against the Blue Eagles and eventual finalists the Red Warriors.

Double loss

The Warriors would go on to bag an outright finals berth with their overtime win over the Green Archers, sweeping the double-round eliminations. Compounding their loss, the Archers' backup center, Brian Bul, was slapped with a five-game suspension after throwing a punch at UE's forward Mark Hanipalita during an altercation in the first half of their game.

The two losses gave the Archers a 9-5 win-loss card at the end of the eliminations round, which set the stage for a three-game showdown against the Blue Eagles, who also sported a similar record. The Eagles were in high spirits after coming last year's champions the UST Growling Tigers in their knockout match.

The initial match-up was a tie-breaker between the two squads, which La Salle won with the slimmest of margins, 74-69, to clinch the coveted twice-to-beat edge in the series.

As if making up for the lost time, the rival squads met again in two grueling semifinal games, with the Legends-hazed rogers claiming each rivals from Taft with a nail-biting 78-75 win, forcing a do-or-die rubber match for the right to meet UE in the finals.

But hunger, exercise and experience in pressure situations prevailed as the Green Archers repulsed the Blue Eagles for good, 65-60, to barge into the finals.

A diaries series by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have ♥ to hold

Art: ARNEL A. MISTICA

A LIFTA

BY JOSUAMEA

PUGAD BABOY

BY NIEL JUNIOR

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMIC AND WEEDY

BY LYN GARCELLANO

LOVEWHOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

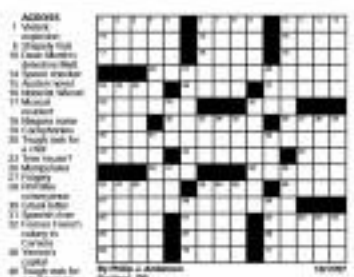
RIKO PINOKIKIE

BY TRISH ASEREN

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTS SUDOKU

Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Green

			3	9	4			
		8			5			
	5			7				
4				2				
1				5			6	7
2					6	9		8
	7							2
		4					1	
			1	4	7	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	2	8	6	1	3	7	9	4
3	1	7	4	9	5	2	8	6
6	4	9	7	2	8	3	5	1
8	5	1	3	7	4	9	6	2
9	7	6	5	8	2	4	1	3
2	3	4	9	6	1	5	7	8
7	8	5	2	4	6	1	3	9
1	6	2	8	3	9	5	4	7
4	9	3	1	5	7	6	2	8

Name: Lyndon Tang
Age: 25
Birthdate: April 23, 1981
Jersey number: 11
Team position: Point guard
Favorite Season 33 moment: Winning the championship
What important thing your coach taught you: I use the challenge and never give up.
Basketball idol: Yeng Guiao
Talent or specialty: Talent
What makes a champion team: The two that have big hearts and a brotherhood that keeps the team together

Name: Joseph Lastimosa Jason
Age: 19
Birthdate: Dec. 1, 1988
Jersey number: 5
Team position: Point guard/shooting guard
Favorite Season 33 moment: Winning the championship
What important thing your coach taught you: If you commit a mistake, a missed shot or a turnover, as long as you hustle, you can recover.
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan
Talent or specialty: Talent
What makes a champion team: Brotherhood. Whoever wins games, defense wins championships.

Name: Paul Desiderio Lee
Age: 21
Birthday: Nov. 4, 1984
Jersey number: 10
Team position: Small forward/power forward
Favorite Season 33 moment: Game number 5 of the finals
What important thing your coach taught you: Be open, no regrets.
Basketball idol: Tracy McGrady and Michael Jordan
Talent or specialty: Talent
Hidden talents: Dancing
What makes a champion team: Camaraderie.

Name: Dominic Rigo A. Villanueva
Age: 20
Birthday: Nov. 19, 1985
Jersey number: 31
Team position: Guard
Favorite Season 33 moment: The championship.
What important thing your coach taught you: Maintaining a student-athlete. This season that being a student-athlete.
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan
Talent or specialty: Talent
Hidden talents: Singing
What makes a champion team: Camaraderie, a brotherhood and trust in the court.

Name: Arthur Peter John Wahlmann
Age: 28
Birthday: April 7, 1981
Jersey number: 3
Team position: Center
Favorite Season 33 moment: Beating Ateneo and winning the championship.
What important thing your coach taught you: Is to go to his every heart and practice.
Basketball idol: Kirk Hinrich and Jason Williams
Talent: Talent or specialty: Australian
Hidden talents: Skydiving and playing the guitar
What makes a champion team: Utmost determined and humble as one.

Name: Rich Arwas L. Go
Age: 19
Birthday: Dec. 28, 1988
Jersey number: 32
Team position: Power forward
Favorite Season 33 moment: Winning the championship
What important thing your coach taught you: Just like in basketball, in life you should not allow anyone to make you or anybody else stronger.
Basketball idol: Ben Wallace
Talent or specialty: Talent
Hidden talents: "Shaddup"
What makes a champion team: Teamwork, heart, hard work and camaraderie.

Name: Victor Mariano
Age: 19
Birthday: Aug. 11, 1987
Jersey number: 7
Team position: Shooting guard
Favorite Season 33 moment: Beating Ateneo and winning the championship
What important thing your coach taught you: As long as one work as a team, we can be unstoppable.
Basketball idol: Kobe Bryant
Talent or specialty: Talent
What makes a champion team: Trusting each other inside and outside the court

Champions once more

From page D1

Twists and angles

The final games were full of twists and angles that added color to the season-ender. It was the first time coach Franz Pumaren versus against his younger brother Monti Pumaren in a UAAP Finals. Diwata was guiding the Red Warriors on a historic 14-0 sweep of the eliminations en route their first finals appearance in 17 years.

Thus, it was like a mirror-image, in the sense that both squads had mastered the vaunted full-court press; it was the two pro-assisted frontline going against each other in what some TV commentators dubbed Christmas in December because of the colors the schools represented.

Game one was fought mock and mad, with both squads exchanging runs. The seemingly invincible Red Warriors dominated the boards, surrebounding the Green Archers 37-22. But the squad in green compensated by giving UE a taste of La Salle's pressure-defense and forcing them to a season-high 30 turnovers.

And with the game tied in the dying seconds, Green Archer forward Jhoe Mazon drove coast-one-of-two Fortifierers after being fouled to give UE its first taste of defeat and La Salle a 64-63 victory and a 1-0 advantage in the best-of-three finals.

In game two, UE pounced on the Archers early in the first quarter with the Green Archers tightened their defense and took control of the ball game until the final quarter. Headlining in the four-three line, and clutch Ateneo Finals-co-Finals MVPs JV Casio and Chris Tiu (20 points each) who won in his final year of duty, stopped a comeback from the Red Warriors and sealed the deal for the Green Archers.

The 73-64 win in game two not only gave the De La Salle Green Archers the championship, but also made a re-surprising statement that they were really back.

Asked what the formula was for their return to glory, the players said, "it was the championship experience, the heart, rooting each other and brotherhood that did it."

Name: Simon David Atkins
Age: 22
Birthday: July 19, 1985
Jersey number: 7
Team position: Point guard
Favorite Season 33 moment: When I scored the game-winning basket during the Ateneo-La Salle game.
What important thing your coach taught you: To value teamwork.
Basketball idol: Allen Iverson, Jo Jang, Dalen Wilkens, second Clemente Wilson
Talent or specialty: Talent
Hidden talents: Drawing
What makes a champion team: Good friendship, who encourage each other and assist others' abilities and flaws.

Name: Ferdinand
Age: 20
Birthday: April 26, 1985
Jersey number: 6
Team position: center
Favorite Season 33 moment: Beating Ateneo and finishing a game against Mapúa
What important thing your coach taught you: Give your all every time he needs the most.
Basketball idol: Dave Carter
Talent or specialty: Talent
Hidden talents: Swimming and badminton
What makes a champion team: Brotherhood and having a heart of a champion.

Name: Chris John R. Tiu
Age: 22
Birthday: August 19, 1985
Jersey number: 16
Team position: Small forward
Favorite Season 33 moment: Winning the championship
What important thing your coach taught you: Listen to what coach
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan
Talent or specialty: Basketball
Hidden talents: Dancing
What makes a champion team: Teamwork, determination and brotherhood

Name: Lenny Philip Mangahas
Age: 21
Birthday: Oct. 3, 1986
Jersey number: 34
Team position: Forward
Favorite Season 33 moment: Beating the Blue Eagles
What important thing your coach taught you: Be aggressive
Basketball idol: Kenneth Duremdes
Talent or specialty: Talent
What makes a champion team: Teamwork is the most formidable.

Name: Percy Raras
Age: 19
Birthday: Dec. 31, 1987
Jersey number: 11
Team position: Shooting guard
Favorite Season 33 moment: Beating Ateneo
What important thing your coach taught you: Give your 100 percent on the court.
Basketball idol: Kobe Bryant
Talent or specialty: Audition
Hidden talents: Dancing
What makes a champion team: Teamwork

Name: Rupert Lee
Age: 20
Birthday: Jan. 21, 1987
Jersey number: 23
Team position: Guard
Favorite Season 33 moment: Champion title
What important thing your coach taught you: To always play as a team and never forget this word.
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan
Talent or specialty: Audition
Hidden talents: Motorcross/motocross
What makes a champion team: Ateneo, teamwork and trust

Name: Mark Bahinan
Age: 21
Birthday: April 6, 1986
Jersey number: 25
Team position: Center/Power forward
Favorite Season 33 moment: Winning the championship
What important thing your coach taught you: To never back down and play with pride.
Basketball idol: Ping Exaltacion
Talent or specialty: Talent
Hidden talents: Singing
What makes a champion team: Unity and good chemistry

Name: Brian Ilad
Age: 22
Birthday: June 13, 1985
Jersey number: 33
Team position: Center
Favorite Season 33 moment: Beating UST and Ateneo
What important thing your coach taught you: To never give up.
Basketball idol: Carmelo Anthony
Talent or specialty: Talent
Hidden talents: Swimming
What makes a champion team: "Never say die" attitude

100 balls in the basket

From page D3

47. Expect the revival of Steve Francis' career.

48. I can just imagine Rick Adelman rubbing this upcoming season in the faces of the Maloof brothers, the owners of his previous team, the Kings. "You could have had this last season but you fired me for that BS! pay!"

49. Lalo Scotic Walking double-double.

50. "Yes, Chicago, you could have kept Tyson Chandler, but you didn't."

51. And you know what? Melvin Ely ain't so bad either.

52. Chris Mihm is probably so tired of hearing people previewing Greg Oden as the better draft pick that he's almost ready to explode.

53. Everyone forgets that Memphis was great two seasons ago. They will be great again this year.

54. Darko is Pavel Darko is Kwamaine?

55. You'd think that Utah would stop doubting players by now that didn't fit in Jerry Sloan's system (Hirbelter, Stevens, Mitch).

56. Ah, Joey! All that's left is for the Jazz to find the love of Ric.

57. Charlie Ashton = Steve Blake

58. Hunt = Scottie Wilkins

59. Another 70+ games for Marcus Camby? Perhaps he's finally over the injury bump.

60. Expect the revival of Channing Frye's jaboob (here) careers.

61. Is Enrico Wilks a secret weapon or trade bait? The latter, in my opinion.

62. Once again, Al Jefferson, the best player on the worst team.

63. Randy Foye is all hype.

64. Look for the coaching carousel to continue to spin to Minnesota.

65. The next team to adopt a Phoenix-style offense? The Sacramento, who will still be on the outside looking in when the playoffs roll around.

66. Robert Swift will be good. And he'll be better with Bret Thomas mowing him.

67. I'm so confident in Brian Skinner's ability to defend Tim Duncan that... Actually, I'm just clapping on my own accounts.

68. This media is also begging of the soul of Steve Nash, isn't it? I mean, he won't break down this season, but next season is when the Suns fan should start getting scared.

69. Kobe will post quietly throughout the season, but look for an Iverson-like tirade if they don't make the playoffs. A big tirade, mind you.

70. Nobody is walking through the door of the Lakers' office. Not Jason Kidd, not Jerry Stackhouse, nobody.

71. Everyone talks about Andrew Bynum needing to step up, but Kwame Brown will be the one to spark the Lakers.

72. The Golden State Warriors will out-Phoenix the Phoenix Suns.

73. Marcus Bellamy is legit, he is Delonte Southwest.

74. That $13-million trade exception sure is burning a hole in the pocket of Chris Wallis.

75. What is the point of calling Elton Brand back? They might as well try to land the projected top pick of next year's draft, Ol' Mayo, who is a point guard.

76. San Antonio, the position that is going to be ruined with a Jason Caneli decides he wants to and his career on a winning team?

77. Of course, when Sacramento trades Mike Bibby away, they're going to want to dunk Mason as well.

78. Thad Pfeil, just like Kings fans is going to be solved with a trade and/or a buyout. Anything to get Jamie Williams and Spencer Hawes more minutes together.

79. Marc Iavaroni will be Disabled of the Year.

80. Kevin Durant will be Rookie of the Year.

81. If he stays healthy, Tim Ming will be MVP, thanks to the addition of a superb passing game to Mike Krzyzewski's system.

82. The bottom three: Sacramento, Minnesota, Indiana.

83. That Portland comes San Antonio season-opening game never looks awful sure.

84. First week upset: Indiana at home, over a Wade-less Miami Heat on Nov. 2.

85. All-Star Weekend in New Orleans: Mardi Gras alone, nothing.

86. If Barnes took a page out of Roger Clemens' book, deciding to sign somewhere in November or December.

87. The night he the year that Paul Silas will get fired again as head coach.

88. Can't say the same thing for Mike Fratello and Larry Brown.

89. I can't wait to see Shaquille O'Neal retire. Biggest party South Beach has ever seen. And he's single, too!

90. Greg Oden will play at least one game of the Portland Trailblazers' season.

91. Danny Ainge will be Executive of the Year, and deservedly.

92. Chris Andersen will be the first player to come back from a drug suspension to play in the NBA.

93. San Antonio (3) over Memphis (6); Golden State (7) over Dallas (2); Phoenix (4) over Denver (5); Houston (5) over Utah (4).

94. Chicago (1) over New Jersey (8); Detroit (2) over Orlando (7); Cleveland (3) over Toronto (5); Boston (5) over Washington (4).

95. San Antonio (3) over Houston (5); Phoenix (3) over Golden State (3).

96. Chicago (1) over Boston (5); Detroit (4) over Cleveland (2).

97. San Antonio (3) over Phoenix (3) in the Western Conference Finals.

98. Chicago (1) over Detroit (4) in the Eastern Conference Finals.

99. San Antonio repeats for the first time and wins the NBA Championship again.

100. Robert Sterry, Michael Finley, and Bruce Bowen will all retire happy and content.

100 balls in the basket

Let's see if at least half of my predictions here hit their mark

By Adrian H. Zy
Sports correspondent

SO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPpen in the upcoming NBA season? Read on and find out. Just give me license to gloat when it turns out I'm right, and spare us matter excuses when I'm wrong.

1. How good do I think the Boston Celtics are going to be? They're this year's Toronto Raptors, improving on last season's record by 20 or more games en route to easily wind up with a 70W-12L record.

2. Danny Ainge will run the new gunnysacked contracts of Kendrick Perkins (11 points, 12 rebounds in the Pilot Amateur tournament) and Brian Scalabrine (3 points, 4 rebounds in the Pilot Amateur tournament) and Ishmael Smith (no game-assigned stats, getting Boston a killer 13-man rotation (Rondo, Posey, Jones, House and Tony Allen).

3. Sure, everyone is saying that one injury will derail this entire team, but you've got to think that Celtics fans that have one of its star players. The injuries to Paul Pierce and Ray Allen had season-saver obviously exaggerated to give their teams a better chance at the Greg Oden sweepstakes.

4. The New York Knicks are going to be so annoyed (as I wouldn't you be annoyed up if you've been rewarded for several horrendous?) first they're going to get losers, not better.

5. And Isiah Thomas is going to be so reckless-pants to keep his job that he will pull the trigger on some lambasted trades that will add another gazillion dollars to his payroll.

6. Lots of trade chatter will be heard Lee, who is so desperate for playing time that he's talking it deep down to the small-forward position. All kinds fine can do is choke their breaks and pray he gets moved into the starting lineup (which won't happen).

7. Is Philly the new Boston? Tons of young talent surrounds rookie Spaniards Jrue Holiday and Thaddeus Young, and Andre Iguodala has turned into NBA Love, no easy question for round small players like Thaddeus Young and Jason Smith on high stakes.

8. Assuming Mikki Moore for Jamal Mashburn will a step forward, but a shuffle sideways.

9. If Nenad Krstic can play as well as he did before his injury, that would be a step forward.

10. Toronto stopped being the Phoenix Suns of the Eastern Conference midway through last season, but odds are they're going to be the Suns again in 2007-08.

11. Juan Dixon will have all season to dispel the comments who said he was out of his league in the playoffs after being awarded "Coach of the Year" Stop up he will.

12. Very quietly, the Detroit Pistons have added depth and youth to their team. So guards and small forwards Jason Maxiell and Rodney Stuckey (hope Dallas is desperate enough for you.

13. I have already heard whispers that have Lindsey Hunter taking over as head coach for Flip Saunders if the Pistons implode in the playoffs again. Do you have heard, too?

14. Ricky Davis + Improved Jump Shot = Just "this" close to respectable.

15. Which version "Hack-the-Kng" and triple-rooms will be a common sight in Cavaliers games.

16. Mike Bibby isn't walking through that door, though. Given time, Dominic Jones, Propell Marshall were horrible ideas.

17. In retrospect, all those 2005 first-round signings (Joey Hughes, Damon Jones, Propell Marshall were horrible ideas.

18. Tyrus Thomas will get the starting PF job in Charlotte.

19. Tyrus Thomas will not keep the starting PF job, Bosnjak.

20. Tyrus Thomas + Joakim Noah = "Boy, is it fun to watch the Chicago Bulls."

21. Secret post presence? He must is Aaron Gray.

22. Is there any team out there that thinks getting Ben Wallace will push them from over the top? The Bulls will gladly take your offer and are willing to go as low as 40 cents to the dollar for expiring contracts.

23. Jo Jo Hp, Chris Duhon, Hollis, Jameson Curry.

24. Jeff Green's going to drop all the way from the ninth spot in the four to the rollie.

25. How much longer until Ron Artest or Joe Smith's resume? Not too far off.

26. Does Jim O'Brien realize that no one on the team can solidify be a three-point-er? And no, Rasheed Wallace doesn't count.

27. Yi Jianlian is going to flip-flop so many times, between "green players" and "crappy players" that it'll be ridiculous.

28. Sure for a healthy Michael Redd to return the Milwaukee Bucks to relevance.

29. Mark my words: No Miami Heat in the post-season.

30. Wouldn't you want to read your column on Dante Cook?

31. Who is everyone writing Washington off, when Like Gerlock, they got younger and deeper?

32. And Agent Zero is in a contract year! He is going to be phenomenal and then he'll blog about being so darn phenomenal after each game.

33. The Wizards' conundrum: deal with serious Jamison's expiring contract before the trade deadline or after it? I say after it.

34. Mon Von Gerlock's much better than Billy Donovan ever was.

35. I think it would shock the world if JJ Redick had a lower year than Jameer Nelson, Well, anyone is be shocked.

36. Tony Battie is going to be out for the year which means it's time for Admiral Boyle to put up career numbers.

37. As Sonic Boy goes, so go the Bobcats. Panic, he's not already? Then they are not a playoff team.

38. Between Shaun Brown and Adam Morrison, I think we can safely conclude that MJ doesn't know the first thing about drafting players.

39. I really want Atlanta to be successful. I think I'll have to wait another year, though.

40. Even if the Nets do sign Chris Webber, he just doesn't fit the Triflet offense.

41. 65+ wins again? Stay double. If Josh Howard stays healthy, that is, and doesn't miss another 12 games.

42. Jim Eldrick is the second coming of Brent Barry. Just what the Spurs needs.

43. Unfortunately, Matt Bonner is not the second coming of Robert Horry. That would be the guy they sent over to the Rockets for essentially nothing.

44. Duncan will still be Duncan. Hooray.

45. This is going to put it, but I honestly believe that this is the year where everyone will stay relatively healthy in Houston.

ENTERTAINMENT

John Ernie C. Velarde

Makisig TV, for men

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHEN SEVEN HILLS BROADCASTING launched the local homecoming channel on cable TV was going all the way, all testosterone-panicked.

But a group of businessmen spearheaded by Ramon Tuganera took over the ailing channel (70 on Sky and Home cable providers), 69 on Destiny Cable) to ensure continued coverage.

To the rescue then came Malaking Network, the first Filipino male-oriented channel. It had its first broadcast yesterday.

Tuganera said Malaking's main goal was to upgrade the quality of locoverage/coverage.

"We want to position homecoming as an entertainment sport, not as a form of gambling," added Tuganera, chair and CEO.

Tuganera is also the owner of Wind Blown, the highest-priced, most famous and most-awarded horse in Philippine racing history according to business columnist Manolo Quijano.

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Robinsons Tagbilaran
Robinsons Legazpi
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Robinsons Dasmariñas
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Robinsons Antipolo

THE TWO top Malaysia actors at work with studio crew. They say every home-like is watching the station.

Only from Pepsi at:

These winners are chillin' with Pepsi and The Black Eyed Peas!

They're going to Bangkok to watch the October 18 concert live!

They also get free airfare, hotel accommodations, and pocket money!

Name	Location
Jaden C. Bautista	Caloocan
Christian Dominic G. Gonzales	San Jose, Nueva Ecija
Matthew A. Santos	Quezon City
Jamie Ramona A. Salonga	Quezon City
Alyssa S. Abad	Mandaluyong City
Ryan Ramos	Caloocan City
Michelle Navarro	Las Piñas City
Jeanelle Cardoso	Cavite City
Crystal E. Ruiz	Pasay
Charlotte P. San Miguel	Mandaluyong
Timothy Jordan V. Mendiola	Pasig City
Erica M. Reyes	Antipolo City
Jaime E. Rosales	Mandaluyong City
Christine T. Jimenez	Pasay
Anne Rose Zamora	Caloocan City

Name	Location
Ma. Angela Nagal	Quezon City
Gabriel Dennis M. Cortez	Quezon City
Josephine P. Sunio	Pasay
Maybelle D. Acosta	Quezon City
Cynthia B. Javier	Quezon City
Patricia Soriano	Quezon City
Nina Jane Anne P. Sumilang	San Juan
Alyn B. Uson	Pasay
Ella Marie G.A. Jamias	Quezon City
Maritoni Fabella	Pasig City
Noriel Alcantara	Makati City
Lucille Lozada	Mandaluyong City
Anthony Patrick Wilson	Caloocan City
Jayson Sison	Makati City
Catherine Suarez	Pasay City

bep

AT THE CINEMAS

ILUMINTA 1	1	2	3	4
ILUMINTA 4	1	2	3	
	4	5	6	7
GREENBELT 1	1	2		
GREENBELT 2	1	2	3	
	4	5		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1	2		
	3	4	5	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	2	3	4
MARKET! MARKET!	1	2		
	3	4	5	
TRINOMA	1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	

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Watch out for "The 11th Hour" at the following Ayala Malls Cinemas:

October 19 - 31 in Alabang Town Center

October 17 - November 6 at Market! Market!

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta	SPI Japanese Madness September 28 to October 18 at Glorietta Activity Center
Greenbelt	Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit October 8 to 18, Greenbelt 3 Lobby
Alabang Town Center	The Click Five! — America's Next Power Pop Band October 14, 6 PM, Activity Center
Ayala Center Cebu	SPI Advertainment Exhibit October 11 to 16, Paseo
Market! Market!	Wearable Boundaries October 15, Activity Center
Cinefilipino	Repertory Philippines presents Nonoy's GAGGIRELLA Rule August - December 2007
Ayala Museum	SYMBIOSIS: Mark Lunn Higgins September 14 to October 28, 2007, Second Floor
Tri Noma	Rhythm Academy: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino October 17, 6 PM, Activity Center

Rhythm Academy

Relive the school spirit as the best school choruses share beautiful music with the country's top performers.

Featuring

At the Trinoma Park Activity Center, 6pm

October 17: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino

At the Trinoma Park (4th Level) at 7:00 pm

October 6: Nina with The Kilyawan Boys Choir

October 20: The Company with The Las Piñas Boys Choir

Glorietta · Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Market! Market! · Trinoma

ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE
■ Missing Debra Messing? She's back in 'Starter Wife'! Rushes/F4

THE BIG recalled the influences and outstanding work that made Babyface a major artist.

Babyface rocks Big Dome

By Pertinia Concepcion

KENNETH "BABYFACE" EDMONDS III is black, but his interest in music was sparked by white musicians.

This he recalled in the early part of his concert on Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

The multi-faceted artist paid tribute to James Taylor, Jim Croce, Eric Clapton and Bob Dylan—whose songs he first heard on AM radio when he was 11. "They were all writers and played guitar," Babyface recalled.

He was quick to point out the difference between his idols' pop-rock sound and the R&B groove he would be known for. But Babyface, playing guitar with a four-piece band, interpreted Croce's "Time in a Bottle" with a flamenco-style overture that reflected diversity in taste.

The band was likewise adventurous. Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight" had the keyboardist playing like a church organist with his Hammond, and the lead guitarist coaxing his face from the fire and feeling of local like.

MARVINCUI

CIARA in Las Vegas, with rumor-show biz boyfriend Jojo Oconer.

Ciara's new inspiration in Vegas

LAUREN CIARA KOTTOS GUTIERREZ, nomination to try her luck in the US, being the daughter of show biz icons Tito Sotto and Helen Gamboa would open doors faster for her fame, but she aspired to do it the hard way and start from scratch abroad.

With her drama and talents, how can she fail? What more now that she has an inspiration in Vegas? Let the pro pinoys3 have say the rest. Ciara blabbed/buzz about "My soul mate, my best friend" and said it was taken during her "best birthday ever."

All stars on All Souls

Since All Souls' Day is fast approaching, I asked some celebs what their thoughts are about death. And also, what they would do if they knew it was already their last day on earth.

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

PAOLEEN SOSA: "Death is my greatest fear. On my last day I would just shiver and drive my car with all my loved ones."

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA: "I would give all my possessions to my loved ones and those in need. Then I'll go skydiving. Life on earth is temporary. Life after death is eternal so we'd

MARVIN CUI

CHEER FACTOR

LONDON—PLAYWRIGHT OSCAR WILDE, who mentored on his death bed "Either those curtains go or I do," was named in a poll on Monday as Britain's greatest wit. In the Top 10, Winston Churchill made it to number five. In parliamentarian Private Bradshaw, who accused him of being drunk, he said: "Bessie, you're ugly. Tomorrow morning I will be sober but you will still be ugly." The poll of 3,000 comedy fans was conducted to launch UKTV digital channel Dave. "The home of witty banter." Reuters

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1 STARDUST • THX
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 MR. WOODCOCK
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 HIGHLANDER
8 indieBites
6 KNOCKED UP
9 NO RESERVATIONS
8 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

ERMITA

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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8 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
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7 KUNG-FU FIGHTER
4 HIGHLANDER
6 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

NOVALICHES

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPT APAT
2 KNOCKED UP
4 STARDUST

PIONEER

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
5 MR. WOODCOCK
2 KNOCKED UP
6 HIGHLANDER

STA. ROSA

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
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2 KNOCKED UP
3 WEDDING DAZE
3 STARDUST
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE HOST
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN

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4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

ANGELES

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1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
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2 KNOCKED UP
2 THE BRAVE ONE / MACY DREW
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I WORE PROMDUNCE YOU
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3 / DECEMBER BOYS
CHUCK & LARRY

STARMILLS

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3 / WEDDING DAZE
2 KNOCKED UP
2 THE SEEKER
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 DECEMBER BOYS

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3 NO RESERVATIONS
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 THE HOST
4 THE HOST
5 STARDUST
5 DAYWATCH
6 indieBites: TARSIS
6 I WOW PROMDUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

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MR. WOODCOCK
HIGHLANDER V
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HIGHLANDER V
MR. WOODCOCK
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
ROGUE ASSASSIN
KUNG FU FIGHTER
STARDUST

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
MR. WOODCOCK
HIGHLANDER V
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KUNG FU FIGHTER
WEDDING DAZE

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ROGUE ASSASSIN
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NO RESERVATIONS
STARDUST
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY MARIKINA
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ROGUE ASSASSIN
MR. WOODCOCK

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STARDUST
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY MARIKINA
NO RESERVATIONS
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
RESIDENT EVIL 3
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY PAMPANGA
RESIDENT EVIL
STARDUST
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CLARK
RESIDENT EVIL 3
STARDUST
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY BACOOR
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
RESIDENT EVIL
ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY BACOOR
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY BACOOR
STARDUST
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BACOOR
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RESIDENT EVIL 3
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
RETRIBUTION
ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
RESIDENT EVIL 3
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY BACOOR
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
STARDUST
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ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY BACOOR
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WEDDING DAZE
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SKYWATCH
ROGUE ASSASSIN
RESERVED
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STARDUST
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SKINWALKERS
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BACOOR
RESIDENT EVIL 3
STARDUST
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
NO RESERVATIONS

Ciara's new inspiration in Vegas

Previous page F1

better he sure values us as going after this life."

RIHA: "Before I die, I would like to try getting really drunk. We'll never know when death will happen or promise that it will ever totally come. We should not dwell on it too much to the point of failing to appreciate and live life to the max!"

JEI MANILA: "On my last day I'll go bungee jumping! I think of death as moving on to the next chapter of existence. It's not the end but a beginning of new greater things."

MANUEL RODRIGUEZ: "I would eat and eat all the food I usually don't eat because of my diet. I'll die the next day anyway so no more attention-dance-gaining for."

ALBERT/ARGAO: "I want to travel around the world and I feel my soul will die with me. One of 'do' before I go. Death is a necessary end. I believe in eternal life."

ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI: "I'd go back to Italy the day before I die. Dreding also to death because it scares to hell out of me!"

JUDE ESTRADA: First, I would apologize to all the people I've hurt or offended. Then I'll play golf and go skydiving. Death is inevitable so I don't really think about it. But people should live death, especially if they know their lives are worth living.

PBL opening

Catch the surprise-filled opening day of the Philippine Basketball League's 2nd season on Oct. 28 at the San Juan arena. There will be Miss universe dreams piece to the game, a free concert featuring Bloodkills, Provoc Shake, Blue Kimoy and Blank Bandido, plus extreme strip-skimp exercises of Extreme Magic Sing.

Birthday shoves to PBL's are Jacquee Bailey.

Eye candy

Candy Style magazine's Eye Candiers Leg it at Uptite Bar (114 Scout Lozano) on Oct. 20, 9 p.m. Feast on eye candy all night long!

E-mail wearing: kelechengcheng@yahoo.com

Babyface rocks...

From page F1

Looking back on his own storied career, Babyface proceeded to perform his own songs, notably "What If" and another tune in which he smooth, sliding vocal style and flakeno echoed a style very much copied by many aspiring R&B singers.

The musical evening's level rose, as Babyface interpreted some of the biggest hits he wrote and produced for Bobby Brown, Boyz II Men, TLC, Whitney Houston, Toni Braxton, Kanye West and Madonna.

The trip unexpectedly unnerved a large crowd from all ages, including those his kids like Herbert and Gary Gomez, Marivel Soriano and Wendell Ramos.

Another unexpected night: Sadie, Babyface's protege who belted like a young Tina Turner and Aretha Franklin.

Sadie bruised through her version of "Proche Again," "Another End Love Affair" and "Ohhh Honey, Honey). "I'm persistent" and other hits.

After he posited the question, "How do I write like a girl?" Babyface said "I'll tell ya don't want to get hurt. Do a relationship, so that's what I always think about."

That was the essence of "Take a Bow," which Babyface re-rewrote in Gamo-pop style. Sadie helped reminded me why it's one of the best ballads Madonna ever recorded.

Clapton's "Change the World" closed the show.

Babyface's version had a keyboards guitar jam, yet more natural, a soulful groove.

In concert, Babyface uses the opticon of cool.

OPENING TODAY

Knocked Up

Stars Katherine Heigl, Seth Rogen, Leslie Mann, Paul Rudd

Directed by Judd Apatow

A beautiful show biz writer (Heigl) gets pregnant after a drunken one night stand with a less than lovely guy (Rogen). Directed by Judd Apatow, Knocked Up is a comedy that, for the most part, is very funny. Sometimes the humor may seem familiar, but they seem together in surprising ways." Tom Charity of CNN.com agrees: Its "winning combination of benevolence and belly laughs will leave audiences smiling." Film Threat's Mark Bell exclaims: It "rocked the house."

Perfume: The Story of a Murderer

Stars Ben Whishaw, Alan Rickman, Rachel Hurd-Wood, Bonnie Hall (cast)

Directed by Tom Tykwer

Based on Patrick Suskind's 1985 bestseller, this "dark thriller" casts an 18th-century serial killer (Whishaw) as hero. Bernard Besserglik of The Holly wood Reporter summarizes that "despite its faults (it) maintains its spooky grip." Amy Biancolli of the Houston Chronicle describes it as "a film that inhales and leaves imagination." Carina Chocano of Los Angeles Times calls it an "unaccountably compelling story."

Mr. Woodcock

Stars Billy Bob Thornton, Seann William Scott, Susan Sarandon, Amy Poehler

Directed Craig Gillespie

A self-help author is horrified to learn that his asthmatic high school PE teacher (Thornton) is now dating his sister (Sarandon). Stephen Hunter of Washington Post points out that it "delivers some shoulder [and] solid pleasures." Roger Ebert of Chicago Sun-Times opines: It's "pervasively more interesting as football [comedy]." Steven Rosen of Denver's Star-Ledger sums it up as "a dark comedy with performances that are universally true."

The Seeker: The Dark is Rising

Stars Alexander Ludwig, Ian McShane, Frances Conroy, Christopher Eccleston

Directed by David L. Cunningham

Inspired by a series of children's books by Susan Cooper, this flick follows the adventures of a schoolboy (Ludwig) who's a magical warrior tasked to save the world. Ruthe Carter of Chicago Tribune thinks it's "a purely timid fantasy [with] cutesy fables." Annette Gresham of New York Times complains that it "feels passé and lacks a charismatic lead." Claudia Puig of USA Today says that "the result is rather clunky."

Highlander V: The Source

Stars Adrian Paul, Thekla Reuten, Peter Wingfield, Thom Hill

Directed by Brett Leonard

This fifth installment of the epic saga finds Duncan MacLeod (Paul) in a quest to find the source of his powers. Ronnie Simmons of Screen Rant.com: "[It] makes an effort to deepen the Highlander mythos." Brian Orndorf of BrianOrndorf.com: "Paul [Davids] lost his dignity [and] the momentum." Beyond Hollywood.com snickers: "[The franchise] is dead, folks."

Debra Messing topbills new Emmy front-runner

RUSHES

DEBRA Messing as a fallen socialite in "The Starter Wife."

MISSING: DEBRA MESSING?

We said goodbye to "Will & Grace" multi-hunky beauties. Well, Debra's back in a big way for latest long-lasting primed positive (this sparkling talent can't be less cannot stay under the radar.

"The Starter Wife," a hilarious and sensitive mini-series, airs on Hallmark starting Sunday, Oct. 21. We're in line for an interview with the actress, but we can't wait to announce this.

Based on Gigi Levangie Grazer's New York Times bestseller of the same title, "The Starter Wife" has earned 10 Emmy nods, including a Lead Actress nomination for our gal, and the Outstanding Miniseries for the Film Home Television Fame.

It is about Molly Ringer (Messing), who is just emerging from a devastating divorce with her movie mogul husband. Now she has to live outside the high profile, high power lifestyle of his elite social circle that she once commanded. Will she make it, get convincing her newly and can't wait to see it through to the conclusion. Take our word for it, it's guilty pleasure territory—smart, savvy and wicked! Sunday's two-hour premiere starts at 9 p.m.

Underage Idols

ALBANY, New York — The parent companies of the "American Idols Get Their ID" weekend child labor laws during its New York concert dance, according to the state Department of Labor. The company, 19 Entertainment, did not have child permission packages for underage — Jordin Sparkle and Sanjaya Malakar — who were under 18 during the New York dates in August and September. Sparkle is 17. Malakar turned 18 last month. The company will pay $5,000 in fines. AP

A bit insane

LOS ANGELES — Jimmy Kimmel is going bisexual as a TV talk show host. The host of ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" will fill in for a vacationing Regis Philbin on "Live with Regis and Kelly" in New York, while still hosting his namesake show from Los Angeles. Leaving the country for a day for three days.

"I am a little bit insane," Kimmel told The Associated Press. "It will be difficult, but that's how committed I am to entertaining America. And parts of Canada." He said he agreed to the bizzarre gig because "you can easily get in a car where you're doing a show every night and this is definitely not necessarily. If you give me enough advance notice, I will agree to almost anything. I'm leaving the American Music Awards in mid-November. I also drive a cab on weekends." AP

* * *

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV. (And why we are stunned, if we are stunned.)

● Pete Rose's ex-wife he had "murdered" Miss Earth Canada and Pinoy big brother Celebrity Edition 2 housemate Glenn Gutiérrez from singer Mark Ramirez: "Secret ako naman ha."

● Pete on the controversy surrounding ex-girlfriend Ara Mina, rumored to have a relationship with Manny Pacquiao: "Mahirap na nasa long 'yon para sa kanya."

ARA Mina

● Ara Mina's appeal to Manny Pacquiao: "Nasa 'yong mga involved na sya ... ito sila lang 'yong nagpapatawad ko. I explained myself already. Ayun 'yon. I'm not mad at him. I'm not mad at his wife. Malyadi lang ako for my members nanonood nya. Parang hindi ko sigurado magsasamahan pag ... may nangyaring masama at necessary ko." (Okay, we don't believe. Photo.)

Money of the hour

● Manny Pacquiao, breaking his silence on the rumor:

"Maghahapon lang dawn at naka-may movie kami. Siyempre hindi ko ang movie. Alam mo na pagka gaanon, may mga nasa party ka." (Chuchu, man—Ooh!). a tirade mode.)

● Jinkee Pacquiao on the alleged relationship:

"Ayoko ng mga gaanon kasi gusto ko tahimik na buhay tapos gaanon pa?" (Pull him out of show biz, girl, or grin and bear it.)

The next level

● Erik Santos on the possibility of rekindling his relationship with Pinky Rose Quiñito:

"Ba-ang magkaibigan, ito ang mga girlfriend/boyfriend. Hindi, ganoon 'yon. Mga exes na we're friends."

● Pinky Rose on reuniting ex with Erik:

"Siguro naman I think, nag-forward na kong naman ng mga ganoon. Hindi, ganoon 'yon. Mga exes na we're friends. Ayun din naman. Na-realize din siya na ganoon ganyan. Di ba? Ayun, fair to him." (Aww-sweet.)

Sports or kids?

● Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales on the possibility of having a child:

Charlene: "They're a handful already ... so for now, okay na sa nine Australian Anders."

Aga: "We're not talking about it right now. Pine-pray-lamang it's gonna take my time till then—with God willing." (Yes, we know.)

No and no

● Ellen Ramirez on rumors that supposed girlfriend Andre Max is pregnant with his child:

"Umuwi sila, hindi ako ang nanay. Pero gaanon, hindi siya buntis. Walang basis. Sorry."

Spare the kid?

● Claudia Yuliu after her latest outside-marriage:

"When Cris (Villanueva) and I broke up, it [because] really barely. Like really still love Cris. I just locked the room. Stupid time, I just decided to drink some [coffee] once, and passed out. It's a shame. I was pretty bored with my life and I wanted to go the Philippines. But sadly, Cris won't sign the papers. I wanna go to Las Vegas. I want to go back to the United States to work. You know, I'm also depressed. There's some annoying sa-. It was actually stupid, I should have thought of my son. My son is still here so lying on me." (Hey words: "stupid," and "there's now work coming in.")

● Claudia's tour: Paris on his dad; Cris Villanueva:

"I haven't talked to my dad for so long—a long, long, long time." (Did he say long?)

● Cris denying Claudia's claims:

"It's not true ... that I won't sign my papers or I'm into allowing Paris to leave with her. I haven't spoken to her for almost three years now."

Period, now

● Dino Ciencia to re-filing a petition for the annulment of his marriage to Kim de los Santos:

"Dahilan na ang labas para maisakatuparan namin." (Hawk, pare-oh.)

Jam understands dow

● Jamart Ylanan on Martin Nievera's televised statements about his rift with estranged wife, Pops Fernandez:

"Hindi ko napanood 'yong interview. Minsan siguro, nilalagay pinagdadaanan ng labas! Sabi-oh. Gaanon talaga. Gaanon ang buhay-oh. Pero, 'ika nga, buhay pa rin. Di naman natin maiwasan 'yong talagang dadaan sa ating. Hahlalo-lo-opo. There was a time nag-text ako sa kanya. Nag-text ako ng pagmamahal. Hindi ko na nanood ang pangyayari pero ... may nangyaring masama at necessary ko." (Okay, we don't believe. Photo.)

● Jamart on Pops:

"I clearly understand what they are going through. Wala namang gusto na hindi nagpa-annulment ng nangyari sa buhay ko. Alam mo 'yong ... isang stone lang, mina-try nina mo 'yong hindi mo, tapos mayroon ka ng ... ganoon. Ganoon ka mang hindi nakikita 'yong ano-oh."

Hardest for Martin ... Jickain

● Martin Gelzein on missing his daughter, Marthene:

"Lalo ang lunghot. Ngayon siyempre ang pinakamasakit na nangyari sa buhay ko. Alam mo 'yong ... isang stone lang, mina-try nina mo 'yong hindi mo, tapos mayroon ka ng ... ganoon. Ganoon ka mang hindi nakikita 'yong ano-oh."

In-up-rush

● Aiko Melendez on her rumored new boyfriend Ritchi Muraosa:

"Give me a break. I may be separated, but ... Let's spare all my male friends, including Ritchi, because he was never the reason for my separation. Ya-ako ang nagsumbatan. I just got out with friends."

Snooky shoots away

● Snooky on why she called At Ai de las Alas as a reality program on GMA in view of the "most plastic" in show biz:

"Nagkasama-sama sa publicity mom. She was so friendly, ang gandang mga tao. Sunday-sweet. Tapos! na-invite sa Sweet Heart Awards siyempre pumunta para sa akin. Hindi ko rin nakita. Nagkasama-sama sa publicity mom. Sa Mr. Al Al. The whole evening 'di niya ako pinapansin. Although lumapit ko siya. To get a blessing. Ibig sinabi nagpa-bang tayong kaya! ako nagpapabang ng sarili kong mga magaan-dito."

● Snooky now winning her game at Get and Inukuman, whom she labeled the other "most plastic" artist in show biz:

"Hindi dala lang mukaan, okay. Ishhhh-ronin, nagsasanakal ka. Pero gusto dala lang nang bango-hot spot, pangpatanong kaya. At nakita ganyan ko lang. Parang, 'Ishhh! Hot! Ano ba-ang nagsusuot nito. Gerald, may kaugnayan nemen ako ng-uring gaanoon-no."

● Gerald on Snooky's chargers:

"You can't please everyone. Si-Miss Saturday 'yon. Ito-alam kong naman ako-ang-sabihin ... Ito-ang-sabihin ay ito-ako. Ito-alam ako-talagat talaga ... hanggat 'di hindi pinakikita. (Hero) sorry po." (That means pala.)

● Snooky's message to Gerald:

"You don't have to kiss my (Sheep!). You don't have to make me smile-smile. Kung kaya mo-ako-ang-pasayahin mo-ako-kaming mga tao-ako-nagsasaya sa mga-kaya mo-ako-sa, 'Ito-I know you!' Parang parents ang-dating. Hanahan-ako-siyam-pu. Baka kailangan-ko-ng-ng-ng memory pill." (Sweetie-no.)

● Gen Tolo defending Gerald:

"Isabi-ni-Snooky? Dito ba-ito. Snooky no-babe-o Snooky-no-lolako?" (Super, mind-ko-no.)

In-fairness

● Charged Islands Gov. Geraldine Ecleo-Villanueva on the alleged hostage incident involving Jean Garcia:

"In-fairness to Jean, the word 'hostage' did not come out from her mouth. In fairness to Jean, the word 'encounter' did not come from her mouth. Walang nangyari tungo-ng-hap. Ako-ay-nakiusap sa-ako-kanyang mga kaibigan-ko-ng Saudi Embassy. I will cherish the good memories." (Hmm, that's loaded.)

GERALD Anderson

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